



## Classroom Library Books

At St Alban's we believe, and the research shows us, that being literate changes your life. The research shows us that if you are a literate child who reads for pleasure then this has more impact on your future life chances than any other factor. For this reason, every child in our school will have access to good quality literature.

### How are class library books selected?

We chose books that we believe are worth reading and re-reading – stories that children will love. We began with old favourites and then moved on to more recent literature. We also searched for stories that reflect different realities, so that our books are mirrors and windows for our children. Mirrors are books that **contain story lines, characters, and experiences** our children can see themselves in. They can make personal connections and feel seen and heard after reading a book. A book that is a window helps children to see into the life or experience of someone else.

All of our books are recommended by CLPE or have won literature awards. The books are age appropriate but can also be read at different emotional levels.

### Why are these books so important?

Reading stories broadens children's vocabulary and supports their wider understanding of language. Voracious readers can overcome inauspicious beginnings and drive their own learning. They increase their vocabulary and their knowledge. They understand the books they choose to read independently, because their good vocabulary supports. Such children have a significant advantage- we want all of the children at our school to have this advantage!

### Classroom library books- our system!

Children can borrow a class library book using their library card. Class Librarians will show the children how they can do this. Classroom library books have a sticker on the back of the book. This helps school keep the books in order. Children can borrow the book for as long as they wish. One of our school rules is 'Be Responsible,' so we do expect books to be returned to school in good condition. If a book is not returned to school then there is a £5 charge.

The books are not decodable and children in foundation and key stage 1 are not expected to read these books independently. RWINC. scheme books support our children to learn how to read. Once children have completed the RWINC. scheme and can read fluently, they should be able to read the library books independently.

### Challenge

We challenge our children to listen to, or read all of the books in their classroom libraries. Inside their reading journal is a list of books. Every time a child reads one of their class books, librarians will sign their book. If in a year, a child reads every book in their classroom library, then they will receive a special certificate to mark this achievement. At our school, we want to know for sure that all of our children have experienced quality literature - nothing will be left to chance!

*"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."*  
*Emilie Buchwald*