

Reading at School

Teachers will hear children read regularly, individually and as part of a group. Children are encouraged to read words around them in school as well as reading books.

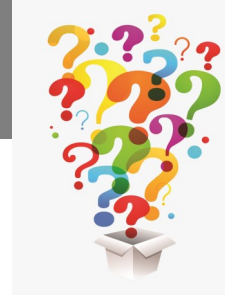
When we provide your child with a reading book, we want them to feel confident that they will be able to read it. We make sure that your child is able to complete 95% of the book (which is called the 95% confidence level). We have a diverse range of books to support your child's reading within the school, and we hope this will enable your child to experience a range of authors and styles of books.

Some books for beginner readers may not have any words—they will be encouraged to look at the pictures and explain what is happening, what might happen next and so on. These books help your child to develop reading skills and a love of reading.



At St. Mary's, English is taught through a text-driven curriculum. Your child will read a wide range of texts in school and will regularly hear adults read aloud.

Frequently Asked Questions



Which books are best?

- Books your child likes
- Books suggested by your child's teacher
- Books your child chooses from a library or bookshop that they want to read
- Never be afraid of re-reading books. Re-reading builds confidence, fluency and understanding

My child won't read, how can I help?

- Read to your child as much as possible
- Let them choose books which are of interest to them
- Look for wider opportunities to read (e.g. games, shopping lists)
- Don't make a big issue out of it
- Talk to your child's class teacher

We hope the information in this leaflet has been helpful. If you any questions at all, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher.



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

How to help your child learn to read



Tel: 01983 562000

Email: admin@stmaryspri.co.uk

Early Reading



Children will start learning to read as soon as their eyes can focus on print: they learn to read in much the same way they learn to do anything else and will imitate what they see adults doing.

Illustrations play an important part in early reading. They give clues to the reader about the storyline and the text, they provide information about the setting and help in sequencing the story.

They will start predicting contents from cover, title and illustrations. The use of repetitive texts will develop confidence in the reader and allow consolidation at a later stage.

How you can help at home:

Point out words all around you.

Help your child to read the words around them: on food packets in the supermarket, on buses, in newspapers, in recipes



Have lots of different books at home and encourage them to pick them up, look at the pictures, point out letters or words they may recognise

Being read to is very important so try and make time every day to read to your child - books, comics, recipes, shopping lists, bedtime stories...

Teach them rhymes and songs — can they recognise the rhyming words or finish the song?

Read yourself! Set a good example by sharing your reading. Let your children see that you value books and keep them at home.

Keep books safe. Make your child their own special place to keep their books. Show them how to turn pages carefully.

Visit your library – it's free to join! All libraries have children's sections; many also have regular storytelling sessions.

Encourage them to share reading with grandparents, brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles.

Keep in touch with school. Make sure your child swaps their home reading books regularly at school and try to make a regular time slot of about 10 minutes to hear them read. If English is not your family's first language: you can buy dual language books. You can talk about books and stories in any language.

Turn off the TV! It's easier for your child to concentrate if there are no distractions.

Be positive. Praise your child for trying hard at their reading. Let them know it's all right to make mistakes.

Give them time. Let them make a guess before you tell them the word. Help them to get the first sound or try breaking the word up into smaller sections.

Point with a finger. Encourage them to follow the words with their finger

Don't make them try too hard! It doesn't matter if you have to tell them the word sometimes.

Let them read their favourites. It's good practice to read the same books over and over again.

Ask lots of questions. Check they understand the story by asking them questions about what happens. Use the pictures to explain what's happening.

Don't read for too long. A good ten minutes is better than a difficult half hour.

Supporting reading at home

- Find a place to sit together that suits you both. Find some time to talk about the book as well as reading it.
- Make reading a special time, not a chore.
- Start with the title, look at the cover and briefly talk about what you might find inside.
- At the bottom of each page, encourage your child to predict what might happen next.
- If your child gets stuck, ask what word would fit best, ask them to sound it out (if appropriate), or simply supply the word yourself.
- What happened in the story?
- Does this remind them of anything in their lives or anything they have read before?
- Did they think the book was funny? Did they spot any interesting words and phrases?
- Did they enjoy the book?
- What did they enjoy?
- Read to your child. You can help them to understand particular parts of the story.
- Encourage your child to retell the story you have just shared. This will give you an idea of how much they have understood.

