

Reading at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Reading is one of life's most essential skills. At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School we hope that all children will develop a love of books, enthusiasm for promoting their reading skills and grow to be confident, competent readers. As a parent or carer you play a vital role in supporting your child's reading development, our partnership between home and school is essential for success with this life skill.

How Reading is taught at St Joseph's:

Your child's reading experience is much more than the reading book that comes home from school. Reading is happening all the time in our classrooms and across school. It is taught in English lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects too.

Home reading at St Joseph's:

Nursery

Children learn to read in different ways and at different ages. The first part of a child's journey towards being a successful reader starts when your child is a baby and is listening to stories and rhymes. This encourages a love of language and stories and develops your child's vocabulary and understanding of language as they start to become familiar with what words mean and what they look like. Most Nursery children are already reading before they start school; they will be able to read the supermarket sign above the shops they visit frequently, e.g. McDonalds, Lego and Disney will be easily identifiable to them too. Whilst your young child won't necessarily be able to identify the letters and sounds within those words, they read them because they remember the overall shape of the word. In Nursery, your child will begin to bring home weekly library books to share with you at home, to develop their love of reading. During the week your child will be heard read by the teacher/TA and they will write a comment about your child's reading in their reading record which we ask parents / carers to comment in. Reading books and reading records need to be in school every day.

Reception and Key Stage 1:

The children in Reception will initially bring home picture books. These books are wordless but are very important to your child's reading development. Early Books allow children to learn how stories work, including the order and direction in which they read, without the pressure of too many words on the page. Children will enjoy talking about the story and discussing what is happening in the pictures. The first step in reading is to use visual prompts to help read the words. The pictures provide lots of opportunities for experimenting with environmental sounds, an important first step in the teaching of phonics. As your child progresses within our Phonics scheme, they will begin to bring home **Phase 2 Phonic reading books** which will support children with decoding words with sounds they are learning in school. Reception and KS1 children are exposed to a 'print-rich' environment of signs, labels, books, key words, display and role play that all give opportunities for reading. There are also book areas where children can enjoy sharing books, listening to stories and reading. Children have access to daily Phonic sessions through the '**Letters and Sounds**' programme. Children will take home an individual reading book matched to the Phonic Phase they currently work on in school, in order to match the child's individual reading ability. Your child will be heard read at least once a week by the teacher/TA to allow staff to monitor children's independent reading skills, suitability of the book or readiness to move forwards. Revisiting books with an adult allows for repetition which leads to greater acquisition of new vocabulary because children pick up new information with each re-read. Children will change their reading and library book once a week. Children will also take home a library book of their choice. Children will also have an individual reading record where reading at home should be recorded.

Key Stage 2:

Key Stage 2 children will continue with our home reading system. The book levels will be taken from assessment which assess instructional and independent reading levels using unseen and meaningful texts. These reading levels are then matched up to the appropriate reading band from our reading scheme. This is necessary as the focus of the Reading National Curriculum is about inferring author's intent rather than moving through bands at a fast pace.

Children in KS2 will bring home weekly a library book of their choice and reading book matched to their individual reading level. Children will also be heard read at least once a week in school by a teacher/TA and books will be changed weekly. Children will also have a reading record which parents should comment in when listening to your child read at home.

Children who have a reading level beyond the reading bands will have then be classed as a **free reader**. Free readers come off the reading scheme and get to choose a book of their choice from our library.

Any children who are in a Phonic intervention group because they did not pass the Phonic screening in Year 1, will continue to have a book matched to the Phonic phase they are working on so children can fully decode words.

Don't forget that you can also access home readers online through Active Learn. Children have their own individual logins, which have been shared via ClassDojo and teacher have set books at the correct level for you child. There are also lots of quizzes and games for the children to complete after they have read each book.

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login>

Lost Reading Books:

As you are aware reading books do cost a lot of money to purchase and we need to be able to track books which have been damaged or lost by children or at home. If your child does not bring their reading/library/reading record book to school during the week, you will receive a reminder from the class teacher on ClassDojo. If your child for the second week still does not bring their book to school, another reminder will be issued. If a book is still not returned then a letter will be issued to the parent requesting a £5.00 fee to cover the cost of the book or a £1.50 fee to cover the cost of a reading record. Your child will then be issued with a new reading book regardless (as it is so important children continue to read). The teacher will notify the office who will set up the fee on Parent Pay for parents to pay. If your child misplaces two separate reading books then they will be required to keep their reading book in school and will not bring it home. If parents/carers do find the lost book, please take the book to the school office as they will remove the payable fee on Parent Pay.

How Parents and Carers can Support Children:

Parents can support this 'reading journey' through regular reading at home. Reading to and with your child every evening for at least ten minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school.

Here are some tips for reading with your child at home, including:

1. Make time to read- even ten minutes a day;
2. Choose different types of books;
3. Take turns to read;
4. Talk about the book- asking your child questions. Please note, at the back of your child's book are a set of questions and activities you can do together to support the comprehension aspect of reading;
5. Visit the local library together and enjoy book-talk about your favourite texts;
6. Read comics, websites, environmental signs, instructions in fact anything at all.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Miss Gleeson
English Subject Leader