

Reading in the EYFS

At St Matthew's we believe it's never too early to read with a child. Sharing books, stories and rhymes is a daily part of learning to read, this not only promotes a love of reading but also an awareness of how information can be retrieved from text. Learning how to read is magical, for both children and their parents. At St Matthew's Primary and Nursery School we respect and support early reading skills with a fun and interactive approach which kindles a lifelong love of books and the joy that reading can bring.

We believe it is important that children build up an awareness of reading and those basic reading skills as soon as possible. In Nursery we introduce Phase One Phonics from the Letters and Sounds document. This phase provides children with lots of speaking and listening activities which are essential to early reading development. The aim of phase one is for children to become attuned to the sounds around them as they engage in lots of rhyme and rhythmic activities. This is something we explore in lots of detail within Nursery to ensure these basic skills are embedded before the children move on to Phase Two in Reception Class. Parents can help their children at home by singing lots of nursery rhymes and sharing stories together every single day. In Reception Class the children move on to Phase Two, Three and Four from the Letters and Sounds document. (See a Guide to Phonics Document) During these phases the children are not only introduced to the sounds but they also learn how to blend and segment letter sounds as they make the first steps of reading and writing. Children are first introduced to books without words. These are shared both in class as well as at home with parents. Books without words allow the children to develop their speaking skills as well as their imagination. Once children begin to blend and segment words and are working confidently within phase two phonics, phase two appropriate books are sent home. These books are carefully selected to ensure that children are able to practise identifying and blending the sounds they have already learnt. Children will not be sent home with books that include sounds they have not yet learnt in school. As each child progresses through the phonic phases and become more confident with a wider variety of sounds, they will receive books of suitable challenge, again including only familiar sounds. Workshops are provided for parents in order to support them in developing early reading skills that will assist them with their child at home. Children in Reception Class visit the library each week in order to choose a library book to take home and share with their families. These books range in difficulty and are sent home in order to be shared with family and not necessarily for the children to access independently.

Reading in Key Stage One

The children are given a reading book which they will bring home with them each day. When parents have listened to their child read they write a comment in the accompanying reading diary. Reading books can be changed once an adult in school has heard them read. In addition to this, the children take part in focussed guided reading sessions at least once each week. The school expectation is that a child will be heard at least twice a week by an adult at school. At St Matthew's we use a range of reading schemes to provide a wide breadth of text types. Children in Key Stage One visit the library each week in order to choose a library book to take home and share with their families

Reading in Key Stage Two

Our aim is to inspire a love of reading in all our children. Each class has a well-resourced reading area. Teachers displaying books that they recommend that link to relevant authors, literacy, theme and topic work. We believe reading isn't a stand-alone lesson, but integrated through all elements of the curriculum.

In weekly guided reading sessions children will explore a range of fiction and non-fiction texts and poetry with their teacher. They will consider the writers' use of language, become detectives and look for clues (inference and deduction) and look at the structure and organisation of a text, whilst developing their own comprehension of a text. These highly focused sessions often lead to creative activities to respond to reading like drama, music and art.

In addition to the guided reading session children in Key Stage Two will progress through the reading book bands. Taking books home to share with their families. The expectation at St Matthew's is that all children will be heard at least once a week by an adult in school and more if they are not making progress in reading. We ask that you listen to your child read every day and engage in book talk with them. (The book bands relate to a curriculum level-see Book Bands Expectation Chart)

In Key Stage Two we do not follow one reading scheme, instead we have selected a range of books from a variety of sources to ensure that children are excited by what they read and that they have access to a range of quality texts. Children in Key Stage Two also visit the Library weekly to choose a book of choice to read.