

Reading at home

At St Ann's we are passionate about reading and we believe your children are too. Please support your child in their love of reading and their reading development by providing them with opportunities to read at home. It is of course important that they read with an adult every day, or as often as you can manage. We really do see the impact of all the work that you do with them at home and it helps them invaluablely in all aspects of their work.

We aim to make everybody's experience of school a positive and successful one. If you would like any support with reading, or indeed any aspect of your child's learning, please come in and speak to us. Alternatively, you may find the attached leaflet useful.

As a staff we are passionate about reading and hope by the time your child leaves us, they have developed a lifelong love of reading. We understand that it is sometimes difficult to know which books are suitable for your child's age/ability. Sometimes the text can be too tricky or too easy, and sometimes the themes are not always appropriate. We are always happy to offer guidance on suitable books for your child. Just pop in and ask.

Tricks and Tips:

As parents, you are your child's first and most influential teacher, with the most important part to play in helping your child learn to read.

Here are some tips to help your child at home to make learning to read and reading at home a positive and enjoyable experience...

- Play 'I Spy' with your child. This is a fantastic way to support your child in learning initial letter sounds.
- Encourage your child to point out and read signs, notices or labels that they notice in their everyday environment. If they are at the very early stages of their reading development just get them to trace the letter with their finger, or find a particular letter on the sign.
- Regularly visit the local library in order to encourage a love of books.
- Set aside a quiet time with no distractions each day, around 10-15 minutes.
- Talk about the book covers and read book titles before rushing into a book.
- Before reading a new book, ask questions such as 'What do you think this book will be about?', 'Why do you think that?'
- Encourage your child to make up stories with their friends or siblings. This is an excellent way to develop both their linguistic and their imagination skills.
- Use magnetic letters on the fridge to spell tricky words and key words – ask your child to find them or spell them themselves.
- Allow your child to re-read their favourite books. This helps to encourage a love of books and helps to develop children's confidence.
- Concentrate on enjoying the meaning of books as well as the accuracy of the reading.
- Check that your child is really following what they are reading by asking them to re-tell the story in their own words or make up a new ending.
- Encourage good phrasing and intonation by modelling how some of the story should sound.

- If your child mispronounces a word, do not interrupt them immediately. Instead, allow them the opportunity for self-correction.
- When your child is 'sounding out' words, encourage them to use the letter sounds rather than the alphabet names.
- Remember that children need to experience a variety of reading materials e.g. picture books, comics, magazines, poems and information books.
- If your child is really struggling, take over the reading and let their teacher know, a child should never feel like they are failing.
- Keep reading time relaxed and fun, it should be a quiet time with no other distractions and ensure the television is switched off.
- Remember, there is much more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. It is just as important to be able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about what has been read. Discuss the pictures, the characters, the settings.
- Try and have conversations with your child about how they think the story will end or what their favourite part of the story was. You will then be able to see how well they have understood what they have read and help them to develop their comprehension skills.
- Your child will have a reading record (yellow diary) from school. Please sign the diary with positive comments or any concerns each time you read with your child. You should aim to read at for at least 10 minutes every day.
- Don't forget, the most important way you can help your child to read is to praise them for all of their hard work to develop their confidence and instill a love of reading.

We understand life is busy and it isn't always possible to read everyday. Don't put yourself or your child under pressure if it just isn't possible that day. If they are too tired to read, let them go to bed, or read the story for them instead. We don't want reading to become onerous. If they or you are not enjoying it then please come into school and discuss it with us.