



9<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Reading** is a vital skill we continue to develop throughout our lives, but starting this process as early as possible has significant benefits for our continued success as readers.

This is why, as parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child in becoming a fluent reader, who is confidently able to apply their reading skills across all areas of their lives.

The teaching of reading and reading comprehension within the classroom is only a small part of a child's learning, and the value that is given to reading at home is equally important. You can help your child to achieve their full potential by listening to them read daily (for about 15 minutes), reading regular bedtime stories and by encouraging them to enjoy reading and sharing books together.

Reading widely through all of these approaches will help develop your child's vocabulary, which in turn will make them more confident when reading more challenging books. Giving your child a choice over what they read is an important factor in boosting their enthusiasm for reading and children are more likely to be interested in books they have selected for themselves.

To help us track how much reading your child is/are doing at home, it is important that you sign their reading record every time you have listened to them read, along with a brief comment.

**Ways to support your child at home:**

- Make reading part of your routine with your child
- Encourage your child to read to you
- Read stories, poems and other texts aloud to your child
- Let your child see you reading for purpose and pleasure
- Visit the library / bookshops
- Listen to stories on CDs, the radio, the internet
- Give your child access to a wide variety of written material: books, magazines, websites, recipes and instructions.
- Make time for discussions about what you have read

**Questions to ask your child:**

**Before your child reads a book, you could ask:**

- Why did you select this book?
- What makes you think this book is going to be interesting?
- What do you think the book is going to be about?
- Does this book remind you of anything else you've already read?
- What kind of characters do you think will be in the book?
- What do you think is going to happen?





**While your child is reading a book, you could ask:**

- What has happened so far?
- Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next?
- How do you think the story might end?
- Who is your favourite character? Why?
- Who is the character you like least? Why?
- Find 2 sentences which describe the setting.
- Is the plot fast or slow moving? Find some evidence in the text, which supports your view.

**After your child has finished a book, ask questions like:**

- Which part of the story is your favourite / least favourite? Why?
- Would you change any part of the story? How?
- Would you change any of the characters? How?
- Which part of the story was the funniest, scariest, saddest, and happiest? Find some evidence in the text to support your opinion.
- Would you like to read another book by this author? Why?
- Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why?

**How Reading is rewarded at St Mary's**

Reading logs are checked regularly by our class teachers to ensure children are reading at home to an adult. Each time a child reads at home, whether that be 5 minutes or half an hour, we ask that a signature is added to your child's reading log

- 5 signatures = 1 merit
- 30 signatures = A reading bookmark
- 60 signatures = A reading pencil
- 90 signatures = A book from Mrs Gleed-Thornley's shop

Your support with reading at home is essential and only by working together can we ensure your child achieves their full potential as a reader. If you require any further guidance or support regarding reading, please ask your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Sutton  
Year 5 Class Teacher

