



# Reading at St Mary's



Reading lays the foundations for all learning and is an essential part of your child's education. It is therefore vital that children get into a routine of reading at home and develop a lifelong love of reading. This leaflet has all the information you need to understand how we teach reading at St Mary's and our expectations for this. For more resources and information, please visit our school website.

## Individual Reading

Each week your child will bring home an individual reading book of appropriate challenge (KS2 may keep their books for up to two weeks, depending on length). The expectation is that your child should be reading at least once a week, with an adult or in KS2, independently.

When you have read with your child or they have read independently, please sign and/or comment in the reading record section of their planner. There will also be 'Tools for Reading' objective in this section, this is given to support your child with their fluency. This objective should be the focus when you are reading together.

Please ensure that your child's Reading Planner and books are in school every day, as your child will be reading with an adult at school at least once a week.

We are always looking for volunteers to read with our children, if you are interested, please get in touch with enquires.

## Books

For individual reading, children can access books up to their current book band colour. This is decided on their fluency level and this system is there to support children to read independently. Often there is a focus on racing through the book band colours, however, the goal should always be on having a deeper understanding of what is being read (regardless of the text) and using comprehension skills to support this. Children must be able to understand and discuss what they have read, alongside fluently reading. These skills are taught through Guided Reading (see next page).

## Phonics

Monster Phonics is taught daily in Reception and KS1 please see additional leaflet for more information on this.





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## Guided Reading & Home Tasks

Guided Reading supports children in gaining the necessary reading strategies needed to develop understanding. These skills are often called 'Comprehension Skills'. In our Guided Reading sessions we focus on understanding what is being read, evaluating and analysing texts, and finding/using information from the text.

**In Reception and KS1,** Guided Reading is taught using our Monster Phonics books. Your child will have a small group session focusing on a particular sound and/or high frequency words. During these sessions, there will be discussions on the books and questions will be asked. Each week your child will be given a focus word sheet to learn and a Monster Phonics book to read together. When your child is ready to move on from the Monster Phonics books, Guided Reading sessions, with follow up tasks, will be similar to the KS2 sessions (see below).

**In KS2,** Guided Reading sessions will be taught weekly in either small groups or as a whole class. Children will be given a task to be completed at home. This 'Home Task' has replaced our homework from previous years. The learning objective and task for the week can be found at the back of your child's reading planner in Guided Reading section. It is expected that this is completed each week and is signed by an adult when finished.

Alongside the Home Tasks, asking questions whilst reading will support and develop these skills. On the next page there are some examples of questions for both fiction and non-fiction texts.





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## Comprehension Question Examples

### Fiction Texts

- Look at the front cover/blurb: What do you think this story is about and what do you think will happen in the story?
- Pausing throughout reading: What do you think is going to happen next? What happened before?
- Who is your favourite character? Why?
- What happened when \_\_\_\_?
- Finding exciting vocabulary: Why do you think the author used this word? What does it mean?
- Can you tell me what happened in the beginning, middle and end of the story?

### Non-Fiction Text

- What is the difference between fiction and non-fiction?
- How do you know this book is non-fiction?
- Can you show me the contents page /index /glossary / headings /subheadings etc? What are they used for?
- Can you use the contents page to choose a section you'd like to read/find information?
- What is your favourite fact from the book?
- Tell me 3 new facts you have learnt.
- Can you use the glossary to find out what this word means?

## Reading for Pleasure

To support our children in developing their love of reading, we ensure that time is given to the children to 'Read for Pleasure'. Each week, children will have access to our school library to pick out a book of their own choice. During this time in the library, book discussions are encouraged and there is time for silent reading, as well as a whole class read.

Throughout the week, children will be read to by an adult, either in their Guided Reading sessions or during a story time. Alongside this, each classroom has a reading area for children to use and enjoy at their leisure.

Reading for pleasure can extend to home and we encourage you to read as much as you can at home, this could either be a bedtime story or reading your child's Library book together. Reading doesn't have to just be sitting down and reading books, it can be as simple as finding reading materials in everyday life - reading a menu, food packages in Tesco or even putting subtitles on Netflix or Youtube!

