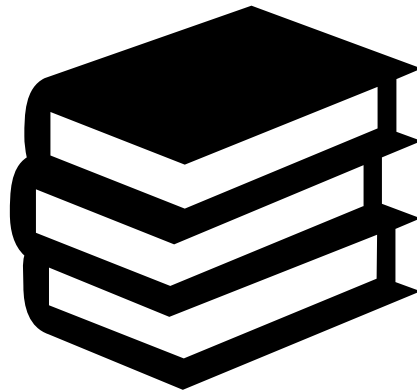


St Mark's C of E Junior School



Supporting your child's reading  
Information for Parents



## Why is reading so important?

Reading is a vital tool for learning and for life. Research shows that children who enjoy reading achieve better at school. Reading not only helps us to widen our knowledge and experiences but also allows us to increase our confidence in many aspects of our lives.

Helping children to make progress in reading is most successful when it is done in partnership between home and school. Any support you can give will improve your child's progress. We appreciate that parents and other adults are more than willing to offer this support, but may sometimes be unsure how to go about it. Therefore, we offer here some tips and advice which we hope you will find useful. Please remember, teachers are available to give advice whenever it's needed.

## How is reading taught in school?

In school we teach reading in a variety of ways.

In Foundation Stage 2 and KS1 the children are 'Learning to Read';

In KS2 the children are 'Reading to Learn.'

In order for children to become able and independent readers they need to have:

**Fluency** – children can read at a comfortable speed with appropriate expression.

**Accuracy** – children can 'decode' words they are reading without interrupting the flow.

**Comprehension** – children can understand and discuss the content in which they read.

**Expression and Enjoyment** – children will become lifelong readers because it is a useful and pleasurable thing to do.

For children to be able to decode new and unfamiliar words, they need to be able to segment and blend the phonemes (unit of sound, e.g. aw/ ire/ ur/ oo) in the words. These skills are taught in phonics sessions throughout their time at Infant School. These continue to be built on during their time in KS2 as well as through reading a variety of texts in school and at home.

Children engage in all sorts of reading activities every day at school, sometimes in groups, many of which occur in the course of different subject areas.

Children also join in with daily whole class reading sessions and one to one with an adult whenever possible. During these sessions the teacher is able to assess the reading progress of the children and work on areas that they find difficult and targets that the children have.

There is a 3-tiered book borrowing system in place – book banded books, teacher support in choosing appropriate texts and free readers. The children also have access to the well-stocked school library and the 50 books to read before you leave 'Year X' in each classroom.

Please also seek reference from the following regularly updated recommended reading lists for each year group:

Year 3 - <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/reading-lists-for-ks2-school-pupils/reading-list-for-year-3-pupils-ks2-age-7-8/>

Year 4 - <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/reading-lists-for-ks2-school-pupils/suggested-reading-list-for-year-4-pupils-ks2-age-8-9/>

Year 5 - <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/reading-lists-for-ks2-school-pupils/suggested-reading-list-for-year-5-pupils-ks2-age-9-10/>

Year 6 - <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/reading-lists-for-ks2-school-pupils/suggested-reading-list-for-year-6-pupils-ks2-age-10-11/>

## How can you help at home?

Once the children have started to learn the skills required to read for themselves, they need to practice daily. Helping your child to master the lifelong skills of reading and become a fluent, independent reader who develops a love for reading is one of the most important ways you can support your child's learning at home.

## How to help your child when reading at home:

- Find a quiet place away from other interruptions
- Spend a few minutes discussing the blurb and front cover before you even open the book – What do you think this book is about?
- Use the VIPERS (see attached document on website) question prompts to ask questions about the text
- Comment on their uses of Fluency, Accuracy, Comprehension and Expression (FACE) as they're reading aloud
- Pre-read the book in order to have a better-quality conversation around important themes, characters and language
- Vary the types of text they are reading – a reading diet could be comprised of: fiction, non-fiction, instructions, newspaper articles, magazines, sports reports etc..
- Listening to audio books and if possible, following along with the actual text
- Help and support your child if they get stuck on any words. Try not to simply tell them the words; encourage them to work it out by:
  - Sounding out the phonemes/letters and syllables
  - Using any picture clues
  - Using the context of the sentence to work out
  - What word would sensibly fit?
  - Re-reading to check for meaning



The most important thing is to encourage a love of books and reading at all ages – model to your children that you're a reader too, discuss books with them and take an interest in what they're reading.

Why not join the library – gain access to a world of books for free!  
Good luck and enjoy your reading journey!

**Why can't my child skip 20 minutes of reading tonight?**

Child A



Reads 20 minutes each day.  
3600 minutes in a school year.

1,800,000 words!



Child B



Reads 5 minutes each day.  
900 minutes in a school year.

282,000 words



Child C



Reads 1 minutes each day.  
180 minutes in a school year.

8000 words

