How to support reading at home

Into the future



Reading can be a wonderful, relaxing experience and will open up a whole new world for our children. Even in this technological age, we need to be able to read, and read a variety of styles and texts. As our children progress throughout the education system, more demands will be made upon them. As parents and teachers, we need to help our children to become accomplished readers but ***most importantly, we want them to enjoy the experience*** *so that they can go forward into the world with confidence and a skill for life.*

Reading opens the door to learning and the world. It underpins everything we do and is essential to everyday life.

Research presents evidence that those children who read 20 minutes a day are the children who are the most successful students in school.

Reading at KS2

By the time children reach KS2, most of them can read, many fluently. Our job is to continue to foster a love for reading and books and in doing so, increase the range of texts they read which will improve their reading skills.



Even though your child may spend time reading quietly to themselves, **adults still have an incredibly important role** in helping them to continue to develop their reading skills. In particular, we can play a key role in the development of comprehension skills - the understanding and appreciation of what is being read.

It is **so** important that reading is a valued, enjoyable activity, without any pressure or conflict. Please support us in continuing to encourage your child to read regularly what they choose and at an appropriate level thus enjoying and consequently building their reading engagement and stamina. Please do contact your class teacher if you need any advice/support.

KS2 reading – what can you do at home?

- Encourage your child to read at home. Children have very busy lives today and reading can sometimes be forgotten. However, even if children can read fluently, it is still important that they read **daily** to build up their reading stamina.
- Listening whilst your child reads aloud at least twice a week, more if your child is still not quite fluent. Reading aloud is a very important skill that they will use frequently at school and in the rest of their lives. Keep reading sessions short and light-hearted (15 to 20 minutes).

- Reading aloud to your children is still **very** important at this age. Sometimes they find a book challenging or can't get into it. Sometimes they just want to listen and enjoy a story. By being read to, it will help to foster a love of books and also the skills of reading aloud will be being modelled to your children.
- Giving your child lots of praise.
- Talking about what has been read.
- If your child is really struggling, please take over the reading yourself and let the teacher know.
- Visit the library and choose some books together (if you can't get to the public library, our school library has lots of lovely books).
- Audio books are actually a great resource to engage children in books - our reading e-platform also has a great selection of audiobooks.
- ***Make reading fun!***



NB Reading aloud to children of all ages and abilities is very important because it gives them access to texts which may be too complex for them to read alone. It also helps them to further develop their reading and writing skills because it helps develops their knowledge of language and story structure and provides them with a greater range of ideas which they can use in their own writing.

At St Francis, story time is a priority, and we would encourage parents to continue enjoying the pleasures of sharing stories (bedtime is a great time), even after your child has become an independent reader.

Range of reading

As children get older, they are expected to read a wider range of fiction and non-fiction material.

Our school library is crammed full of brilliant books for the children to choose from. If they are struggling to find something that appeals to them or they would like to try something new, Mrs Canham or their class teacher will be on hand to support them and make suggestions.

The non-fiction could include newspapers or comics- there are some excellent publications specifically for children available (eg Quest, First News, The Week); diaries; journals; biographies; autobiographies; factual books about a subject of their interest; poetry.

What do we do in school?

At St Francis, reading is at the heart of what we deliver. We place a high priority on the teaching and development of reading within school. Reading is part of almost every lesson we teach although it

may not be the main learning focus of every lesson. However, we do have a number of specific reading opportunities planned within the curriculum. Examples are:

- Class story book read daily
- English lessons are based on a variety of texts
- Daily guided reading activities
- Weekly library time
- Opportunities for reading aloud to teacher, TA and parent helpers
- Lots of written work on display with prompts to read content and answer questions
- Book reviews completed by the children
- Topic (non-fiction) books used in learning
- Audio books
- Children are encouraged to read their own work aloud to the class
- Visiting authors
- Reading Partners
- Weekly reading awards



Recommended books and authors

On our website, we have a list of recommended books and authors for each age group. Of course, this is not a comprehensive list, but it is a useful guide if your child is struggling to choose a book.

If at any time you have any questions about your child's reading, please do not hesitate to write a note in their reading diaries or make contact with his/her teacher.

We are looking forward to working with you on your child's reading and really appreciate all the support and help you are giving to this very important activity at home.

Thank you.