How to support reading at home

Into the future



Reading can be a wonderful, relaxing or exciting experience for young children. It gives them the opportunity to learn about new worlds and develop their curiosity and imaginations. 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 love of reading.

Reading opens the door to learning and the world. It underpins everything we do and is essential to everyday life which is why it is entwined with everything we do at St Francis CE Primary School.

Research presents evidence that those children who read 20 minutes a day are the children who are the most successful students in school. This can be listening to a grown up reading a story, sharing a story with a sibling or reading out loud to a grown up, sibling, friend or teddy bear.

Reading at KS1

In Key Stage 1 our main job is to create a love of reading. We do this by choosing exciting texts based on the children's interests and creating experiences to make stories, poems and non-fiction come alive!

At the start of your child's reading journey we have phonics sessions daily to teach the children how to break a word down into each sound so they can read it. We use games, characters and exciting stories to teach this and allow them to practise the sounds they already know.

Guided Reading is another important part of our day. These sessions allow us to to support your child with:

- learning to read words which they cannot sound out

- practising using their phonics knowledge

- reading a range of exciting texts with different themes and styles

- experiencing new vocabulary

- developing skills to understand what they are reading

Some sessions will be in groups, some will be taught as a whole class and others will be teachers listening to individual children read to them.

Mrs Canham is also a vital part to every child's reading journey at St Francis. The children are always excited for library time and enjoy sharing their stories with their teachers and friends. These books are brilliant for parents to read to their children at bed time as they include new themes and vocabulary they might not have come across yet.

In each class we also have Bedtime Book Boxes where the children can choose a book to borrow for bedtime and return the next day. This allows for an even greater range of stories to read with your child at home.

Reading aloud to children of all ages and attainment 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 develop 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 even after your child has become an independent reader.

Book Bands

Every day your child will be able to take home two books which have coloured bands on. These coloured bands represent the phonics phase that your child is currently working on. One book is a core book which focuses on the tricky words and high frequency words, the other is a phonics book. It is vital for the children's confidence that they are on a colour which they can read most of independently. This will allow them to apply the sounds they already know when reading and will allow them to develop their fluency and understanding of what they are reading. They will still need to sound out some words especially new words they have not come across yet but these words should contain sounds that they are aware of and are practising. Your child's class teacher will let you know when they are ready to move onto a different colour band. We do not have set times when your child will move up as every child's reading journey is so different. Whilst these books are important they are not the only books your child should be reading. Sharing stories from the library and books you have at

home is just as important for fostering a love of reading and exposing them to a wide breadth of texts.

How to support your child to learn to read at home:

- Read stories to them that excite and interest them
- Use silly voices and expression to make it fun
- Develop a routine that allows time for your child to read their phonics books to you daily
- Play I Spy with sounds and tricky words in a book
- Give your child lots of praise
- 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)
- Listen to audio books – we have a great selection on our e-reading platform
- Allow your children to see you reading (they look up to you the most and will value the same things you do!)
- Make reading fun!

How to support your child at home with reading comprehension:

Reading books are only half the fun! Talking about what you are reading throughout the text allows children to see your thought processes about what you are reading. As you read, ask your child questions like what do you think might happen next? Why do you think they did that? This allows children's imaginations to grow and to become curious about stories, poetry and non-fiction topics. Below are some examples of questions that you might like to use when reading with your child.

Year 1

Inference Questions with Iggy

- What do you think.... means? Why do you think that?
- Why do you think...?
- How do you think....?
- When do you think....?
- Where do you think...?
- How has the author made us think that...?



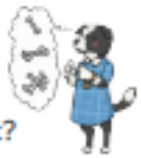
Prediction Questions with Pip

- Where do you think.... will go next?
- What do you think... will say / do next?
- What do you think this book will be about? Why?
- How do you think that this will end?
- Who do you think has done it?
- What might.... say about that?



Sequencing Questions with Suki

- What happens in the beginning of the story?
- How/where does the story start?
- What happened at the end of the...?
- Can you retell the story to me in 20 words or less?
- What happened before that?



Remember:

- Enjoy this moment.
- Share your thoughts and opinions about it too.
- Just five minutes every day makes a huge difference.

Vocabulary Questions with Victor

- Can you find a word/sentence that tells/shows you that...?
- Why do you think that the author used the word... to describe...?
- Can you find a word in the text that means the same as...?
- Find an adjective in the text



Retrieval Questions with Rex

- Who is/are the main character(s)?
- When/where is this story set?
- Which is your favourite/worst/ funniest/scariest part of the story? Why?
- Tell me three facts you have learnt from the text.
- Find the part where...



If you are not sure, say:

- Have a guess.
- What would you do if you were...?
- If you had done that, what might... have said?
- If we know that.... means...., what might... mean?
- Does the picture help us?
- Where else could we look for a clue?

If you can't read a word, say:

- Can you break it up?
- Are there any sounds you know?
- Do you know a word that looks like it?
- What could it say?

Year 2

Vocabulary Questions with Victor

- Can you find a noun/adjective/verb that tells/shows you that...?
- Why do you think that the author used the word... to describe...?
- Which other word on this page means the same as...?
- Find an adjective in the text which describes...



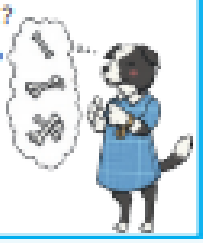
Retrieval Questions with Rex

- Who is/are the main character(s)?
- When/where is this story set? How do you know?
- Which is your favourite/worst/funniest/ scariest part of the story? Why?
- Tell me three facts you have learned from the text.
- Find the part where...



Sequencing Questions with Suki

- What happens in the story's opening?
- How/where does the story start?
- What happened at the end of the...?
- What is the dilemma in this story? How is it resolved?
- Can you retell the story to me in 20 words or less?



If They Can't Read a Word, Say:

- Can you break it up?
- Which sounds do you know?
- Do you know a word that looks like it?
- Have a good guess.

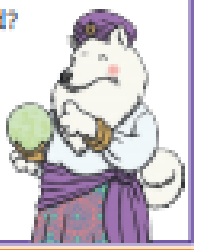
Inference Questions with Iggy

- What do you think.... means? Why do you think that?
- Why do you think...?
- How do you think....?
- When do you think....?
- Where do you think...?
- How has the author made us think that...?



Prediction Questions with Pip

- Where do you think.... will go next?
- What do you think... will say/do next?
- What do you think this book will be about? Why?
- How do you think that this will end? What makes you say that?
- Who do you think has done it?
- What might.... say about that?



If They Are Not Sure, Say:

- Have a guess. What could it be?
- What would you do if you were...?
- If you had done that, what might... have said?
- If we know that.... means...., what might... mean?
- Does the picture help us? How?
- Where else could we look for a clue?

Remember:

- Enjoy this moment.
- Share your thoughts and opinions about it too.
- Model good reading.
- Just five minutes every day makes a huge difference.

Helpful online resources

Below are some of the tools we use during Phonics and Guided Reading sessions which you can also use at home.

https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/

Twinkl

Alphablocks

Education City

Geraldine the Giraffe

Oxfordowl.co.uk

Recommended reading list on our school website



At St Francis, reading is at the heart of everything we do and we are always happy to help and support you and your child on this exciting journey. If you have any questions about reading please come and speak to your child's class teacher. We are looking forward to working with you and we really appreciate all the support and help you are giving to this very important activity at home.

Thank you.

☺