Helping your child to read in Key stage 2.



Into the future

Reading can be a wonderful, relaxing experience and can 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 must help our children to become accomplished readers but we also 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. For example, we need to be able to read instructions, signs and safety information, as well as reading for pleasure.

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, **parents still have an incredibly important role** in helping them to continue to develop their reading skills. In particular, parents can play a key role in the development of comprehension skills - the understanding and appreciation of what is being read.



KS2 reading – what can you do at home?

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You can help your child by:

- Encouraging 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**
- Listening whilst your child reads aloud at least three times a week. Reading aloud is a very important skill that they will use frequently at school and in the rest of their lives
- Keeping 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 take over the reading yourself and let the teacher know
- Visit the library and choose some books together
- ***Make reading fun!***



Research has also shown that by reading aloud to children of all ages helps them to develop their writing skills. This is because it helps them develop their knowledge of language and story structure. It also provides them with a greater range of ideas which they can use in their own writing, and gives them access to texts which may be too complex for them to read alone.

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 wide range of fiction and non-fiction material. The non-fiction could include: newspapers/magazines - 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 a fundamental part 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:

- 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
- Class story book read daily
- Topic (non fiction) books used in learning
- Audio books
- Children are encouraged to read their own work aloud to the class
- Visiting authors

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.