

Reading at Our Lady and St Edward's





The Value of Reading

The importance of laying firm foundations in this crucial area of the curriculum cannot be underestimated. Reading should be a valuable and rewarding aspect of a child's learning and consequently, should open the door to a world of knowledge and pleasure. A child's ability to read has an impact on all other areas of the curriculum and learning.

We really do appreciate the vital role that you play in the development of reading.

Reading at school

We aim to provide a rich reading environment throughout the school, from displays around the school to a wide range of quality fiction and non-fiction books. These are found within classrooms and within the school library which your children have weekly access to. Each classroom has its own book area from which books from a range of ability levels and genres can be selected.

Children will read in different ways:

- In Nursery, children are provided with enjoyable reading experiences using a wide range of quality picture/ story books, non-fiction books, nursery rhymes, poems and songs. They are read to everyday and book handling and other skills are demonstrated.
- In Reception, the children begin the letters and sound phonic scheme. This teaches the skills that are needed to become a fluent and confident reader. Phonics sessions happen daily meaning that your child will be heard to read daily. Teachers record in children's organisers when they have been listened to read.
- As the children move through KS1 they will continue working through the letters and sounds phonics scheme, moving onto the Spelling Shed scheme in KS2.

Reading at school

- Younger children will have their reading book changed by an adult to ensure that it matches their phonetic abilities. Older children will change their book as and when they need to. Teachers will oversee to ensure that these are at a challenging but suitable level.
- Phonics assessments, reading tests/literacy skills assessments are used throughout the year. All children are tested in Year 1 against a government phonics screening test.
- Results from these tests will allow teachers to support those children who may need it. These children will receive extra support through interventions.
- Children will be able to borrow books from the school library on a fortnightly basis to share and read at home.

Reading at home

We see reading as a partnership between parents, children and teachers. We rely on parents to support school in helping their child to learn to read. This is the main homework that we ask of children throughout the school and particularly in Reception and Key Stage 1.

Please listen to your child at least 4 times a week for up to 10 minutes depending on the age of your child and please remember to sign your child's diary after they have read. Reading for 10 minutes a day will make a huge impact on all areas of their learning.

We would encourage you to share a variety of different text types, you could read their school reading book, a newspaper, a magazine, comic or a book from home. Reading with your child and to your child really does make a difference.

Ideas for reading with your child

When a child starts to read, focus on:

- Holding the book correctly.
- Turning the pages individually.
- Pointing to the individual words.
- Talking about the book.
- Retelling the story from memory and the pictures.
- Talking about the characters.

Guided Reading

Throughout the school, children will undertake guided reading. This might slightly differ depending on the age of your child.

- In Reception, children undertake guided reading sessions, once a fortnight. The children share the same book within a group, discussing key features like the title, repeating lines etc. The books again are appropriate to their phonetic ability.
- In KS1 and KS2 children undertake a weekly guided read session which is linked to their class book or topic. The class share the text together and talk through new vocabulary, children are given the opportunity to read out loud, children are encouraged to give opinions, make predictions and infer meaning.
- In KS1 and KS2 the style of questions will vary to incorporate similar style questions to those in SAT's papers.
- Your child's organiser/diary will be signed and stamped to show you that they have read in a group at school.



Reading at home

Once your child can read texts fluently, you can encourage your child:

- To focus less on reading aloud and more on understanding what they have read. Ask them questions relating to what they have read.
- To talk about the layout of different texts (Non-Chronological reports have sub-headings, pictures, captions etc).
- To discuss if they have a preference for a particular author or genre.

