



St Mary & All Saints CE Primary School

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15th January 2024

Dear Parent,

Reading in Key Stage 1

As part of our commitment to delivering an enriching educational experience for our students, we are transitioning from book banded / coloured book reading to a focus on reading a wider range of books for pleasure.

Encouraging children to read for pleasure is a crucial aspect of their literary development. Rather than simply assigning books based on their banded levels, we want to shift the emphasis towards sharing texts that the children specifically read with an adult, fostering meaningful discussions about them with you, their parents. By doing so, we aim to promote a genuine love for reading and cultivate a deeper appreciation for literature. This also allows for parents and children to have open discussions about the texts being shared, and to develop their comprehension skills too. Your child will have the opportunity to bring home a range of genres, they will alternate between fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

The new reading framework explains the pivotal role of reading for pleasure in children's education. It emphasises the value of engaging with a diverse range of texts and the positive impact that this can have on their overall literacy skills. It is important to note that Unlocking Letters and Sounds phonics books will continue to be used in Key Stage 1, and for those to whom it applies in Key Stage 2. These are the books that the children should continue to read at home to an adult. The focus on reading for pleasure will complement these materials, providing a balanced approach to developing literacy skills.

We encourage you to support this transition by engaging in regular reading sessions with your children, exploring the reading for pleasure texts that capture their interests and curiosities. As the children continue to develop confidence in their reading, sharing these reading for pleasure books might turn into a time where the children can read parts too, with adults taking turns or listening to their child read these stories, discussing the text being read. By dedicating time to read to your child and discuss stories together, you can play a vital role in nurturing their passion for literature and broadening their understanding of the world around them.

Once the children, in Key Stage One have come to the end of the phonics readers in Year 2, their reading will be assessed by their class teacher. At this point, the children will be put onto a reading pathway suitable for their ability. They will either become a 'free reader' which means they take books home that continue to develop their reading confidence, fluency, comprehension and prosody skills or your child will bring two reading for pleasure books home, one they will read themselves and one an adult can share with them. This assessment and decision is made by your child's class teacher based on their reading at home, what is seen in school and the best way to continue to develop their reading skills. This is a fluid pathway that is subject to change and development based on their progress.

We understand the significance of your involvement in your child's reading development, and we greatly appreciate your support in this transition. Should you have any questions or require further guidance on how to best engage in reading for pleasure with your child, please do not hesitate to speak to your class teacher, Miss Fraser or Miss Olive.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in fostering a love of reading and literacy in our children.

Yours sincerely,

Miss K Olive Miss C Fraser
Phonics Lead Reading Lead

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