



Reading at St Mary's

At St. Mary's, our reading curriculum aims to develop pupils' reading in all subjects to support their acquisition of knowledge. Our pupils are encouraged to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction which helps to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live, to establish an appreciation and love of reading, and to gain knowledge across the curriculum. Reading widely and often increases pupils' vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech. Reading also feeds pupils' imagination and is an essential stepping stone in their development as writers.

Home reading complements the work carried out in school and allows the children to independently use some of the skills they have been developing in school. It also has an effect on igniting in the children a love reading. As part of this we have produced a list of '100 books to read before leaving St Mary's' to encourage discussions at home and in school around books and authors.

At St. Mary's, children will experience reading in three main ways:

Shared - This is interactive reading where the class teacher or teaching assistant reads a text with the whole class or a large group and explicitly models the skill of proficient reading, including reading with fluency and expression. It is an opportunity to discuss different aspects of the content, language, structure and organisation of the text.

Guided - This happens in a small group of between 6-8 children at least once a week with a teacher or teaching assistant. Texts are chosen that aim to challenge children and are usually a level above the reading books that children bring home. Guided reading is used as a focused teaching session which can hone in on the specific needs of the group.

Teaching in shared and guided reading aims to develop the children's word reading and comprehension skills.

Independent - This is where children read a text by themselves which may be a home reading book or a text chosen from the class or school library. It encourages the children to read for pleasure.

Key Stage 1 Reading Schemes

The main reading scheme used at St Mary's is Collins Big Cat. The scheme uses established authors and illustrators and covers a wide range of genres and curriculum areas. The books are colour banded according to level of difficulty, from early readers through to confident independent readers.

The scheme also has books of a lower difficulty level with age-appropriate content for children for children who find reading challenging.

Other supplementary schemes used are Rigby Star, Rigby Rockets, Snapdragon and Bug Club. Children read books from these colour bands which are closely matched to their phonics, comprehension and interest levels.

Reading Support

Our Better Reading Partners scheme involves a team of volunteers who work with children from across school on a one-to-one basis. The scheme is designed to develop word reading and comprehension skills and enable learners to read with confidence, understanding and enjoyment.

We are also supported by Coram Beanstalk through which volunteers provide one-to-one reading support to improve targeted children's reading skills, reading ability and confidence.

Shared Texts

Some of the texts which form the basis of the children's English lessons include:

Nursery - A variety of texts based around the topics: Traditional Tales; Ourselves; Minibeasts and Growing

Reception – Owl Babies- Martin Wadell; Cinderella; Goldilocks; Percy the Park keeper; The Rainbow Fish; Barry the Fish with Fingers

Y1 –The Way Back Home – Oliver Jeffers; Toys in Space – Mini Grey; Bee and Me – Alison Jay; Handa's Surprise – Eileen Browne

Y2 -The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch – Ronda Armitage; The Lion and the Unicorn- Shirley Hughes; The Storm Whale – Benji Davies; The Magic Paintbrush- Julia Donaldson; The Egg – M.P. Robertson

Y3 - Gorilla - Anthony Browne; Stig of the Dump - Clive King; How to train your Dragon- Cressida Cowell; The Pearl Diver - Julia Johnson; The Time Travelling Cat - Julia Jarman

Y4 -The Hagstone – David Oakden; The Ice Palace – Robert Swindells; The Fib – George Layton; Journey to the River Sea – Eva Ibbotson; The Boy at the Back of the Class - Onjali Q. Rauf

Y5 - Street Child – Berlie Doherty; Beowulf- Michael Morpurgo; Kensuke's Kingdom – Michael Morpurgo; Rooftoppers- Katherine Rundell; The Highwayman - Alfred Noyes

Y6 – Wonder- R.J Pallacio; Macbeth – Shakespeare; Goal Keeper's Revenge – Bill Naughton; The Lions of Little Rock – Kristin Levine

School Library

Our school library is well-stocked with curriculum books and books by popular authors. The children visit the library once every two weeks and can also access a virtual on-line library where they can browse and reserve books, and leave author and book suggestions for the librarian.