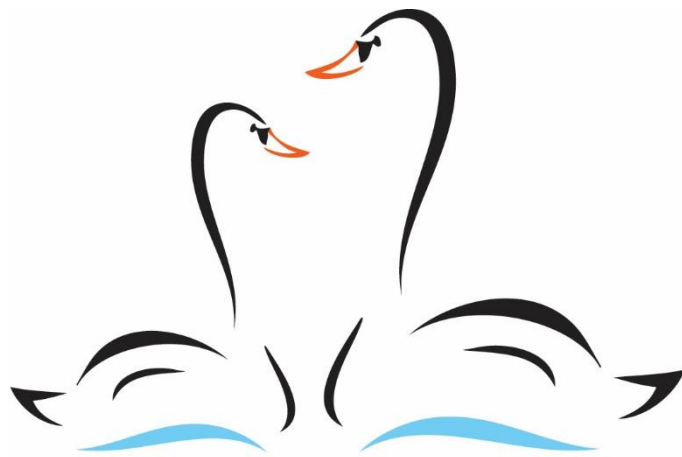


A Guide to Early Years Reading



St Martin and St Mary
Church of England Primary School



“Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed – it’s that simple.”

Bali Rai

Ofsted's key message

A rigorous and sequential approach to the reading curriculum develops pupils' fluency, confidence and enjoyment in reading. At all stages, reading attainment is assessed and gaps are addressed quickly and effectively for all pupils. Reading books, connect closely to the phonics knowledge pupils are taught when they are learning to read.

Dear Parents,

We thought it would be useful to provide information on how children learn to read.

It has been shown that reading for pleasure every day makes children do better in reading tests than those who don't. They also develop a broader vocabulary, general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

“Reading is great for everyone, and loving books is something that can start when you're very young. We can learn about people and life from stories, poems and non-fiction, and if you read to your children regularly for fun you will definitely be helping them in so many ways.” Tony Bradman

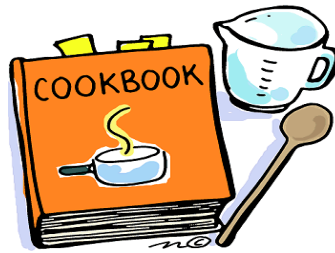


We promote reading in the Early Years as an enjoyable experience. Early reading ignites creativity, curiosity and stimulates the curiosity in young children. We make sure that story time isn't just a time for everyone to sit down and be quiet, but an interactive experience.

Here at St Martin & St Mary we promote reading through a range of different activities and approaches including: -

- Reading stories at group times. A clear benefit of this is that when teachers read aloud to their children, they are relaying a love for good books.
- Music, songs and Nursery Rhymes are all part of group times. Rhyming helps children to break words down and to hear the sounds that make up words that help them when they learn to read.
- Self-registration - children beginning to recognise their name they see under their photo.
- Having lots of print in the classroom, on displays and in role play areas.
- Adults reading a story to the children who choose a library book on that day.
- We choose books carefully, from information books to lovely fiction books usually linked to the topic.
- Using puppets and figurines for children to role play a story or make up their own.
- Cosy spaces and a story/book area for children to read on their own, in a group or with an adult.
- A listening area with a CD player, a book and props so children can listen to a story themselves.
- Using 'visual' stories on the Interactive whiteboard as part of a group time.
- Having baskets of books around the classroom linked to topic of the week or children's interest.
- Magazines in role play areas and cookery books in home corners.

- Using Story sacks in small group times. These are a bag (or box!) filled with a story book and lots of things related to it such as puppets, props, non-fiction books or CD's, that is used to capture children's imaginations and extend their learning.



Linking the importance of books to the Early Years Foundation stage (EYFS) and your child's development
 The EYFS is divided into seven areas of learning.

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
 Sharing and looking at books can have an emotional impact on your child. Cuddles up with a favourite adult, sharing a book can make a child feel loved and safe. Giving them a love of reading can help them become more capable and confident at reading. Books can also help your child to understand emotions such as anger, loss and jealousy.
- **Communication and Language**
 Looking at books together is a great way to help your child to talk, ask questions and develop their vocabulary; words may be new to them and pictures in books can trigger their interests.

- **Physical Development**

Turning pages, lifting flaps and even holding a book helps develop fine motor skills. Sitting or standing when looking at a book requires some coordination and stability.

- **Literacy**

Reading books helps show your child how words can work in print. Early on, children start to recognise that the print on a page represents words and that in English, words go from left to right and from top to bottom. Reading will help young children become better writers; the sooner a child learns to read, the more opportunities they have to become better at spelling, grammar, writing and their communication with others.

- **Mathematics**

Many books give opportunities for your child to look at shapes, patterns and number, often within the illustrations.

- **Understanding the World**

Some books show children a world different from their own and this helps to widen the child's knowledge. There are so many books that can be shared that introduces a child to e.g., dinosaurs, transport, different countries and their people and weather.

- **Expressive Arts and Design**

Some books may help a child to become more imaginative and re-create the story or events or people they see in a book.



Parents as partners

What difference can you make as a parent?



Your role in your child's education is crucial. You can make a big difference! Even before they're born, babies learn to recognise their parents' voices and it gives them the comfort to hear your voice and helps in their introduction to language, growing used to patterns of speech and language.

help their vocabulary grow and over time their understanding of words. Early language skills give's children the means to develop good social and academic skills, this includes the skills needed for reading.

How can you help your child to have a love of reading?

- Point out to them labels, signs, adverts, newspapers, comics etc. If children see print and see the purpose of it, it will help them see why reading is important and encourage them to learn.
- Help your child to read numbers and letters they see around them.
- Sing songs and Nursery rhymes with your child.
- Join the library and help your child to find books they would like to borrow.
- Let your child see you read and share your reading with them for example, reading a recipe, a newspaper or a magazine.
- Use props when you read with your child.
- Make your own books using drawings or pictures from magazines.



Helpful tips for sharing books with your child.

- Read books to your child whenever you can - try and make it a special time in a quiet place.
- Make it fun! Variety is important. Read a comic, a non-fiction book or use an e-book.
- Read a book you remember reading as a child. Tell your child why you loved it and your favourite part of the book.
- Don't worry if your child wants to read the same book over and over again!
- Talk about the books you have read.
- Read a book through before sharing it with your child - it means that you will read more fluently and be sure that is it right for your child.
- Follow your child's lead even when this means going backwards!
- Let your child turn the pages of the book so they learn to handle the books properly.
- Talk about the pictures and illustrations and you will see what your child is interested in.
- Read stories with lots of repetition.
- Point to the words as you read them so your child will see the connection between spoken words and print.
- Make up voices for the different characters in the story.
- When you finish a story, ask your child to tell you what happened. You could draw pictures together or act the story out.

Some useful links

Booktrust is an independent charity that works to bring together readers and books. The site includes lots of information on books for children and adults, and book prizes. www.booktrust.org.uk

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/1/sound-starters>

Remember - Make reading fun and enjoyable. The more your child reads at home the better they will get!



Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet.