

A guide for Parents DEVELOPING READING



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH READING

Reading has been described as a journey on which you find the answers to questions you did not even know you wanted to ask! At St John's we hope to prepare children for that journey by equipping them with the skills they need and the enthusiasm to start.

THE READING JOURNEY

- In Early Years children are introduced to phonics (the sounds) through the Letters and Sounds Scheme. Discussion books are also used at this stage to prepare children to start their journey.
- When the children show that they are grasping the sounds and have experience with discussion books they are introduced to reading material.
- St John's aims to embed understanding and comprehension through a breadth of reading material. We use the Oxford Reading Tree scheme; stages are levelled to National Curriculum levels and book bands.
- We believe that rushing through the scheme is not helpful. Some higher level books have content that may not be of interest to the child and the children benefit long term from consolidating each stage.
- Children work through fiction in order but their reading is supplemented with other genres for variety and interest. High frequency words are available to support word recognition.
- Children also have the opportunity to choose books from our Discovery Centre and read these alongside their scheme book.

A copy of this guide can be found on our website at:

stjohns-eagle.com

If you have any questions relating to Developing Reading please contact the office on:

t: 01922 476695

INDIVIDUAL READING

Children are heard to read individually by the teacher at least once on a two week rolling programme.

GUIDED READING

Children take part in guided reading sessions at least once a week. These are small group sessions led by the teacher. They check and develop children's understanding of what they read. Children also have the opportunity to share texts and read in many other subjects as part of the Creative Curriculum.



St Johns Primary Academy is part of Future Generation Trust

Hobnock Road, Essington, Wolverhampton, WV11 2RF

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READING - TOP TIPS

Help and support at home gives children the best start in reading.

- A little reading often is best!
- Choose a time when you or your child are relaxed and have plenty of time.

With younger children

- Read aloud together and listen to each other.
- Talk about the information in stories and story settings.
- Discuss information books and explain what each of you have learned.
- Make shopping lists together and read labels and signs when you are out and about.
- Visit the library!
- Listen to audio books, songs and rhymes.
- Let them see you reading.
- Make it fun!

With older children

- Read the text in silence together and then ask questions.
- Encourage the reading of 'everyday real' print e.g signs and labels, TV guides, catalogues, leaflets, shopping lists and advertisements...
- Read with children and talk about the ideas in information books, stories, newspapers.
- Consider types of questions: Why? When? Who? Where? What?
- Read for pleasure as well as for information - enjoy it.

DISCUSSION BOOKS

- These 'books without words' are an essential part of your child's reading.
- They promote understanding of story structure.
- They encourage discussion of story structure.
- They encourage discussion of stories and characters.
- They help to develop your child's vocabulary and ability to express their thoughts and ideas about the abstract.

Inside the back cover of each book is a synopsis of the story and some suggested discussion points. There is a wide range of other activities that can be used alongside the discussion books to help develop the skills that will give your child an excellent basis for reading.

- Look at the pictures and discuss the story, the characters, their feelings.
- Ask your child to 'tell you the story', with you the parents as the listener.
- Ask your child to suggest a caption for each picture and write the caption for them (post it notes are useful for this).
- Read the caption to your child, asking them to spot familiar words such as names or the key words that have been learned previously.

Keep it short (5 minutes a day is enough at this age), keep it light hearted and fun! Have an enjoyable story sharing experience!

READING IS A VITAL SKILL FOR LIFE

- Not only does it help with gaining information and giving pleasure, it also helps to develop:
- Writing, the more children read the better they write.
- Relationships between parents and children as books are shared together during a time of calm.
- Speech and communication skills.



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