

Reading at St Mary's

Our Vision for Reading

Children should leave St Mary's with the ability and desire to read widely and often, with fluency and comprehension. We aim for children to read at an age-appropriate level which they should do with a confidence that increases during their time at St Mary's. Parents and the whole community are encouraged to be involved in children's reading as much as possible, no matter the child's age or ability.



What Reading looks like at St Mary's

Children begin their reading journey at St Mary's with phonics taught through the Read Write Inc programme. At this early stage of learning to read, reading books are closely matched to children's phonics knowledge. Daily reading lessons continue throughout the school, with children having access to a variety of stories, poems, rhymes and non-fiction texts which are chosen to develop pupils' vocabulary, language comprehension and love of reading.

As well as dedicated lesson time, staff develop children's love of reading by providing regular opportunities for independent reading, discussion of books and book recommendations. We have a rich and well-stocked library which children can access at lunchtimes. Each class also has a book which they are read every day to further expose them to various texts and to promote reading for pleasure.

A termly newsletter informs families about upcoming events and gives ideas for supporting their child's learning at home. Regular parent workshops build on this.



Why Reading is Important?

Children initially learn to read so that later they can read to learn. If children can read well, they can learn about anything, meaning it is linked to all areas of the curriculum.

Reading for pleasure has a dramatic impact on educational outcomes, wellbeing and social mobility, and is also a huge pleasure in itself.

Cross-Curricular Events

- Book Weeks
- World Book Day Celebrations
- Book Fairs
- Library Visits
- Author & Poet Visits and Workshops



What Our Pupils Say about Reading

'I like reading because you learn words.' *Bella, Y2*

'It takes me to a different world.' *Julia, Y6*

'When you are bored, you should read a book.' *Zach, Y4*

'I enjoy listening to the class books.' *Imogen, Y6*

