

Reading at St John's



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Dr. Seuss



*"I'm wondering what to read next," Anilda said.
"I've finished all the children's books."*

Why is learning new vocabulary so important?

Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

How can I support my child when they are reading?

- If they get stuck on a tricky word, encourage them to read on because they might be able to use the sentence to work out the meaning of the word.
- Point to the pictures to see if it helps your child's understanding.
- Use the internet to find the meaning of tricky words if you can't work out the meaning using the sentence.
- Break down the word eg different - diff-er-ent
- Ask if there are any letter groups that your child knows the sound of eg. courageous - ous

Why is reading so important?

Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

What difference can I make as a parent?

You can make a huge difference! Parents are the most important educators in a child's life - even more important than their teachers - and it's never too early to start reading together. Even before they're born, babies learn to recognise their parents' voices. Reading to your baby from birth, even for just a few minutes a day, gives them the comfort of hearing your voice and increases their exposure to language.

How can I encourage my child to read?

- Read and talk about stories together
- Let them see you reading
- Read signs and labels when you are out together
- Share songs and rhymes
- Listen to songs and rhymes in the car
- Let them choose their own books to read
- Visit the library
- Try to read for 10 minutes per day
- Surround your child with books
- Buy a newspaper and talk about the content
- Create a 'reading routine' by reading at the same time each day - like 5 minutes after school or 5 minutes before bedtime

What should I ask my child whilst reading?

- What have you read? / What have you learnt?
- What pictures do you have in your mind?
- How do you think *character's name* feels?
- What do you think might happen next?
- How do you feel after reading that chapter?
- How has *character's name* changed during the book?
- What do you think the meaning of *tricky word* is?
- Would you recommend this book to your friend? Why?