



Dear Parents/Guardians

The teaching of reading at St Edward's in Reception and Key Stage 1

To develop further our phonics teaching, we have recently adopted *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* as our a new phonics and early reading programme. This is a systematic synthetic phonics programme which enables teachers to support children in developing their phonic knowledge - and in securing the word recognition skills - to support them as fluent readers. Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are taught daily phonics lessons and children in Key Stage 2, who require additional support with their reading access, receive keep up interventions that are delivered by highly trained staff.

How do we teach reading in books?

Reading practice sessions are:

- Timetabled 3 times per week
- Taught by a trained teacher or trained support assistant
- Taught in small groups

The children read the same book three times in a week. The first time, we work on decoding (sounding out) the words; the second time, we focus on prosody (which is reading with expression – making the book sound more interesting with our storyteller voice); and the third time, we look at comprehension. We read the books three times at school because we want to develop the children's fluency. The more children see words, the more they begin to read them automatically without having to sound them out.

Reading books

We use assessment to match your child to a book of the appropriate level. Reading a book at the correct level means your child should be able to do the following:

- Know all the sounds and tricky words in their phonics book well
- Read many of the words by silent blending (in their head) – their reading will be automatic
- Only need to stop and sound out about 5% of the words by the time they bring the book home – they should be able to do this one on their own

There are two types of reading book that your child will bring home throughout the year:

- A reading practice book matched to your child's phonic stage that they can read independently
- A sharing book that they can talk about and enjoy with their parent/guardian

Live, Love, Serve

Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Brown | Head of School: Mrs A Teasdale

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The reading practice book

Your child should be able to read this fluently and independently. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current phonic stage based on recent assessments. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it is 'too easy': your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise and celebrate their success! If they cannot read a word, read it to them. After they have finished reading, talk about the book together.

The sharing book

If children are to become lifelong readers, it is essential that they are encouraged to read for pleasure. To help foster a love of reading, children will choose a book to share and enjoy with you at home. Please note, your child is not expected to read this book independently. The book is for you to read to or with your child. Again, it is good to talk about the book with your child, but important not to turn the discussion into a test. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters and explore facts in non-fiction books. The goal is enjoyment!

Home-school book agreement

As a school, we have invested a lot of money in high-quality phonics books for our pupils. We ask that you respect these books and look after them properly, that they are returned to school on the days requested and that water bottles are not stored in book bags as we have had lots of books in the past being damaged by spillages. Of course, accidents happen but please take care. Each book costs between £4.50 - £5.50. Should any books be damaged or lost, they would need to be replaced. Therefore, if this were to occur, we would request that the cost of the book be covered by the family.

It is **essential that books are returned promptly** to ensure that all children can take home the book they have read in school during the week.

Reading books will be distributed on Fridays and **must be returned the following Thursday**. This will mean that some children are not changing their book as frequently as before. However, there is an expectation that pupils at St Edward's continue to read regularly at home. Reading the same book multiple times will allow your child to become more fluent, practise their expression when reading aloud and develop a deeper understanding of the text.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.
Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs L Rovardi
Phonics Leader/Acting English Leader

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