



ST PAULINUS
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers of KS1,

Reading is an essential skill for a successful future. At St. Paulinus, we value reading and place reading for pleasure on a pedestal. In School, we teach reading daily through phonics, guided group reading or individual reading with an adult. We want our pupils to have a life long love of reading; a hobby to help them relax and unwind.

Your role in helping your child to be a confident and successful reader is really important. Your child will receive a scheme reading book from class two times per week (Monday and Friday). They will read these books in school with an adult. We ask that your child also reads these books with you at home **at least 3-4 times per week**. Sitting with your child and sharing a book is a great way to consolidate the skills that they have been learning in class.

When you listen to your child read their reading book, it would be great if you help them to 'sound out' or 'blend' any unfamiliar words. For example, train = t-r-ai-n. Some words can't be blended so it might be best to help your child read to the end of the sentence and then 'guess' what the tricky word is. Another strategy would be to help your child read a tricky word by looking for patterns within the word. For example, *inside*, you may ask your child to notice the word 'in' or that there is a split digraph 'i-e-'in the word.

Discussing the text, and focusing on meanings of words, sentences and characters etc. is another essential element of being a successful reader. This is often best done once your child has finished reading a page of their book. On our website, there are links to the Open University research about 'Book Chat' and the importance of talking about the books that we read with children. It has some super suggestions for the types of discussion that you may have with your child about their reading book and other books that you share together.

Once you have listened to your child read, please comment on the pages they have read and how they did with their reading in their Reading Record. It is useful for us in School to know aspects which your child was most or less confident with, including if you have discussed the meaning of any new words. Please make sure that your child brings their reading book into School every day.

Finally, we ask that you help your child to complete an activity from the 'Reading Menu' which teachers have posted on Google Classroom. The idea is that your child works their way through

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the menu over the course of the term, choosing a wide variety of tasks linked to the books that they will be bringing home. Activities, such as designing a new book cover or creating questions to ask the main character, are typical of the kinds of activities that are on the reading menu. These activities can be done in your child's Home Book, which stays at home, with photos of their tasks uploaded onto Google Classroom for the teachers to see.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Bircham
English Subject Lead.

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