

Reading at St. Andrew's Primary School

At St. Andrew's Primary school, reading is at the heart of everything we do. Without reading your child would not be able to access our rich and varied curriculum to its fullest.

When do children start to read?

From an early age, children can be encouraged to enjoy books and stories by sharing them with adults. Our role as parents and teachers is to build upon this and open our children's minds to a world of fantasy, fun and facts. Learning to read is complex but if a child enjoys reading for pleasure, they are half way there!

We begin in Reception by:

- Surrounding the children with print eg signs, letters, labels and captions.
- Providing opportunities for children to explore and listen to quality texts, every day.
- Supplying children and parents with home reading and library books to share in the comfort of their own home- starting with picture books
- Introducing children to phonics and words

As the children move through our school we build upon these opportunities and provide a wealth of experiences for every child to read and enjoy good quality books.

Reading in school

Reading in school can take on many forms:

- 1:1 reading with an adult
- Group guided reading. Sharing the same text with children of similar ability

- Reading a class text together
- Reading information texts in other subjects such as history or science
- Using E-books to read extracts of books
- Reading comprehension activities
- End of the day story times
- Older pupils sharing books with younger readers

Understanding Reading

Many parents assume that once a child can read simple words, they can read. However, reading is much more complex than this. We help children to understand the texts they read, mainly through clever questioning to encourage the children to think about what they have read. Simple questions such as *What colour was her hat?* Require the children to retrieve information, whereas other questions such as: *How did she feel when that happened? How do you know?* requires the child to look for clues which may infer or suggest a characters feelings. Sometimes questions ask about the authors choice of language and check children's understanding of vocabulary. As children become more confident they explore themes and links between paragraphs or texts and compare characters motives or attitudes whilst providing evidence to support their answers.

Choosing Reading Books

At St. Andrew's we encourage children to make their own choices about what they read because we know that a child is more likely to enjoy a book they have chosen themselves. However, children need some guidance with choosing the correct level of reading books to ensure they can access the text as well as progress their reading skills. We use a system called "Book Banding." Here all of our home reader and guided reading books have been grouped together into

coloured book bands which match assessments, made by the class teacher. Using guided reading session notes and the PM Benchmark test, teachers can accurately match children to the correct level of text.

We use a variety of book suppliers to ensure the children are exposed to different text types. At St. Andrew's we use:

- Rigby Star
- Rigby Rockets
- Rigby Navigator
- Ginn Readers
- Treetops
- Rapid
- Read Write Inc
- Project X
- Floppy's Phonics
- Oxford Reading Tree Traditional Tales

Confident upper KS2 readers have access to good quality novels, both classic and modern. We also have a wide range of "dyslexia friendly" texts too!