

READING

"Reading feeds the imagination, it expands horizons and offers new and exciting ways of seeing and making sense of our lives and of the world around us."
Michael Morpurgo

Vision Statement

At St Catherine's, we believe that reading is the key that unlocks the world around us. It is a lifelong skill that is crucial to access all aspects of the curriculum. On our reading journey as a school, we aim to inspire all children to develop a love for reading within a whole range of different genres. We recognise the importance of high quality texts within an educational setting and the range of texts drives our creative, engaging and broad curriculum, putting books at the heart of everything we do.

Learning to read is one of the most important things your child will do at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.



'I like reading because I can imagine myself in a really good book.'

'Every story is unique.'



We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we work hard to make sure children develop a love of books as well as simply learning to decode words. As a school, we have recognised the need for investment in reading, subsequently we have re-modelled our library into a stimulating environment for reading for pleasure and research. Since this re-vamp, our pupil librarians are inundated with lunchtime requests to use the library. The library is open after school every Monday and Tuesday until 3.45 pm for you to enjoy with your own child/children. This is a great way for you to share in their love of reading

'The new library is amazing! It's really colourful, with beanbags and butterflies. It's relaxing.'

Over the years, we have purchased a wide range of new books of the highest quality for all classes and we continue to grow and refresh this stock of quality texts on a regular basis



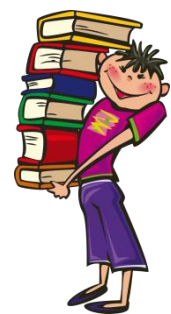
Our Reading Journey

We start by teaching phonics in EYFS (Reception class) using the Department for Education's (DfE) 'Letters and Sounds' phonics programme, supported by resources from www.phonicsplay.co.uk. Additionally, in EYFS, we utilise the 'Jolly Phonics' scheme as a multi-sensory learning tool.

Please follow the link to see the 'sounds' and 'actions' taught:

<https://jolly2.s3.amazonaws.com/Resources/Jolly%20Phonics%20Actions%20Sheet%20.pdf>

Children learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. The children also practise reading (and spelling) 'common exception words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where', these are words grouped into specific year groups.



We have recently purchased the 'Big Cats' reading scheme to support teaching of synthetic phonics. Once children can blend sounds together to read words, they practise reading books matched to their phonics knowledge. As they develop their understanding of phonics, they arrive at the first milestone of their reading journey. Teachers have agreed that all children should hear a story at least three times a week in class, so our children get to know and love all sorts of stories, poetry and information books by a range of authors. This helps to extend children's vocabulary and comprehension, as well as supporting their writing.

From Reception through to the end of Year 2, your child will have a daily 20 minute phonics session, where they are grouped with other children of similar ability. This ensures their individual needs are met through quality first teaching.

Some older children will continue to access reading interventions if they need further consolidation and support. It is important to recognise that in the Summer Term of Year 1, all children are required to participate in a National Key Stage One Phonics Screening Check. The screening highlights the children who need extra support in phonics, in order that they can be successful when they re-take the 'check' in Year 2.

Across the school, from EYFS to Year 6, the children participate in daily guided reading sessions with the staff in their class, using topic related quality texts and projects linked to reading, with rewards systems for encouragement. Additionally, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are part of the Accelerated Reader Scheme, which monitors the amount of words a child is reading through regular quizzes. In Years 1 and 2 the children have access to 'Bug Club' which is an online library with a personalised website for each child. This can be accessed at home.

Comprehension is an essential part of reading. This is part of our Guided Reading curriculum/programme and our general reading throughout the school day. This might include questions about why an event occurred or how a character might be feeling, for example. From Year 2 upwards, the children regularly work from the CGP comprehension books to help develop their understanding of a range of texts.

Reading incentives



In school we ensure we have variety of quality reading schemes to encourage your child to access a range of texts suited to their own personal interests while also extending their reading ability and confidence. The schemes are: Bug club, Collins Big Cat, Oxford Reading Tree, Accelerated Reader and Epic! Pupils also have access to a significant 'library' collection within each classroom.



In KS1 and KS2, each class has their own reward system, where children receive awards for reading at home. From Year 3 upwards, pupils are rewarded through the Accelerated Reader programme, receiving badges for 'word count milestones'. Children's achievements in reading are celebrated in our fortnightly newsletter to parents.



Parent/Carer Involvement

To start off with, you can help your child to sound out the letters in words and then to 'blend' the sounds together to make a whole word. Try not to refer to the letters by their names. Help your child to focus on the sounds. You can hear how to say the sounds correctly by searching on YouTube for 'Read Write Inc. Phonemes Pronunciation Guide'. These 'speed sounds' are used throughout school - even in upper Key Stage 2 - and also link into spelling work, so a good understanding of these sounds really does make a difference!

Make reading fun and keep reading to your child. They will come across far more adventurous words than they will in their early reading books and you will be helping them to grow a rich vocabulary, and develop a deeper understanding of different stories etc. It will also encourage them to love books and want to read more; if a child sees and hears an adult reading, they are inspired by them!

We recommend hearing your child read every day or a minimum of three times a week. Please remember to sign and write a comment in their Reading Records. Even if your child is a confident reader, asking them questions about the story will help to improve their comprehension.

Useful links to support reading



www.getepic.com – An app with a wealth of online books.

www.oxfordowl.co.uk - Advice and a range of free e-books for your children to enjoy.

www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries - Find your local library and reserve books online.

www.phonicsplay.co.uk - An online resource to support phonics.

www.activelearnprimary.co.uk – Children can use their login to read a range of e-books and answer questions about them.

