

Reading at St Philomena's

Reading in school

Reading is an essential part of every school day at St Philomena's. Reading is a life skill that we all use daily; ranging from reading road signs, adverts in shops, letters that come through our post boxes and of course enjoying stories as a family. The importance of reading cannot be underestimated. Reading is placed at the heart of our curriculum at St Philomena's.

Power of reading books

Teachers have carefully selected high quality texts from the 'Power of reading' scheme which will ignite children's imagination, inspire their curiosity and provide a window to the world

Teachers use these texts to teach both reading and writing and will expose your child to a rich, varied and diverse selection of books throughout their time at St Philomena's. Please take a look at the reading spine/ long term plan on the school website to see which books your child is enjoying.

Library time

Every week your child will visit our school library and have an opportunity to borrow books of their choice, as well as their school reading book.

Story time

Every school day will end with whole class story time. This gives the children a chance to be transported to other places and worlds. Teachers also use this as an opportunity to introduce and explain challenging vocabulary which the children add to our classroom word walls.

Reading books

Every afternoon, your child will bring home a reading book from the reading scheme. Reading books will be changed every week.

We will ensure that your child has a reading book which is suitably pitched to build both confidence as a reader and fluency.

RWI phonics

R.W.I is a phonics scheme for teaching both reading and writing. Phonemes are the sounds that letters make (rather than the letter name). Being able to sound out words allows children to break down challenging new words into manageable chunks and blend them back together to read them. RWI is taught in Reception and Year 1 every day. The order the sounds are taught in can also be found on the school website.

Shared reading

Three times a week, every class has shared reading lessons. These lessons include teacher led reading, children volunteering to read aloud, echo reading and developing comprehension skills. These sessions will include a mixture of text work, picture books, film work and poetry to expose your child to a wider range of texts.

Reading at home

- Supporting your child at home:
- Please read at least 4 times per week with your child.
 - Please sign your child's reading record every time you read together
 - Don't forget to read to your child, as well as listen to them read. Enjoy exploring stories and information books together. This should continue well after children have begun to read to themselves.
 - Log onto Serial Mash (on Purple Mash) for a whole library of books that your child can enjoy, as well as audio books.

Remember that it's not a race. Reading is a skill for life. Try not to compare your child with others, especially older brothers or sisters. Encourage your child to love reading and be positive.

Mrs Williams