



St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
Our Approach to Reading



At St Elizabeth's we recognise the fact that being able to read is a key aspect when helping children to succeed. As such, we place high importance of all reading tasks and activities and begin to work on letter recognition as soon as the children join us. We regularly give out prizes and rewards for reading and invite visitors in to promote 'reading for pleasure'.

From an early age, children will begin to recognise, draw and sometimes make letters out of various materials. Our phonic scheme teaches the children rhymes to encourage them to remember the phonetical sounds of letters. It is accompanied by sounds and actions, to make learning fun!

Once children are familiar with the sounds and sight of individual letters, we then teach them to blend the letters together to make more complex sounds. This then enables them to begin to read simple key words, which are presented through our phonic based reading schemes.

As the children become older, they begin to recognise more words through sight, and using the phonic knowledge they have, they are able to 'sound out' any unfamiliar words. This is reinforced by daily differentiated phonic activities and regular reading in school, and supported by reading at home with/by parents.

Once the children are comfortable with individual and blended letter sounds and are able to read accurately, they can move away from purely phonic based reading schemes and begin to read more advanced books, which require them to use their

knowledge much more and are more challenging. We hope that this will take place in Year 3 at the latest, but we recognise that this is not always the case and we therefore keep children on a phonic based reading scheme until we feel that they have the knowledge to move on. We have a range of schemes and books in the juniors to support this, so the children can progress and get the support that they need, without feeling like they are still reading infant books. There is no set time when phonic teaching will stop. If we feel that a group, or individual requires support, it will be provided. Once a child is a proficient reader, they are able to choose their own book to read, which we ensure is suitably challenging. We focus on a number of skills that are essential for reading:

Structure - how sentences are formed, grammar & syntax;

Meaning - it relies on us having an understanding of the world around us to make meaning (semantic cues);

Pictorial - we need to know about illustrations, graphs, pictures, captions and headings (bibliographic cues) and

Graphophonic cues - those supplied by spelling and presentation of words, which interact with knowledge of words and phonic analysis.

At St Elizabeth's reading is taught daily. Children are taught to read in guided reading sessions with teachers and support staff. Children are taught in groups or individually and have access to a wide range of interventions.

Children read in as many situations as possible, not just in reading lessons. Reading takes place in all lessons, using books and electronic devices.

The children are listened to reading on a regular basis in school by the teacher, teaching assistant or a volunteer. In order to support this, we ask that you also encourage your child to read as much as possible at home, to ensure regular practice. Below are some tips which we hope will support you in doing this.

Age 3-5

- . Make time to read e.g. at bed time read a story
- . Turn off the T.V.! Make time to read. Stop what you are doing and share time with your child in a fun and relaxing way with a book.
- . Read their favourite book again and again. Your child will be able to join in and learn new words and phrases.
- . Share songs and rhymes (even popular songs from the charts!)

Try these books:

The Blue Balloon by Mick Inkpen

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Sugarlump and the Unicorn by Julia Donaldson

Where's Spot? By Eric Hill

Each peach pear plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg

Dear zoo by Rod Campbell

Age 5-7

- . Make time to read e.g. at bed time read a story
- . Turn off the T.V.! Make time to read. Stop what you are doing and share time with your child in a fun and relaxing way with a book.
- . Read their favourite book again and again. Your child will be able to join in and learn new words and phrases.
- . Share songs and rhymes (even popular songs from the charts!)

Try these books:

Aliens Stink by Steve Cole

The BFG by Roald Dahl

Michael by Tony Bradman

The Dark by Lemony Snicket

Here come the Aliens by Colin McNaughton

Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers

Age 7-11

. Encourage independent reading BUT don't be afraid to read a bedtime story to your child.

It's always good to share!

. Encourage your child to read newspapers, T.V. guides, comics, magazines and web pages.

. Search the internet for recipes, instructions, etc

. After reading, talk about the book. Which part did you enjoy the most? Would you have

acted in that way? Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why? Why not?

. Read yourself - to set a good example by sharing what you read. Let your child know you

value books and reading. Keep books, magazines, newspapers, etc. at home

Try these books:

A Horrid Henry Factbook: Horrid Henry Sports by Francesca Simon

Charlotte's Web by EB White

Brilliant by Roddy Doyle

Where my Wellies Take Me by Michael Morpurgo

A Soldier's Friend by Megan Rix

Atticus Claw Goes Ashore by Jennifer Gray