

Reading at St John's RC Primary School

A Guide for Parents/Carers

Shared Reading

Shared reading is used during English lessons to model reading. The teacher will read from a class book or text and the children will follow the text. In Early Years and KS1, a 'big book' is often shared whereas in KS2, it could be a novel or a more descriptive piece of text, depending on the unit of work being taught.

The teacher will use the shared reading session as a vehicle to model the reading processes and effective reading strategies to the whole class. During the shared reading session, there is the opportunity to teach new skills. This is why the book will be pitched at a challenging level (under 90% accuracy) to give the class the opportunity to learn.

Guided Reading

We have introduced guided reading into the classrooms this year. Guided reading allows the teacher to work with a small group of children who demonstrate similar reading behaviours and who can all read a similar level of text. The children will work in a group of 6, with other children of similar reading ability. The teacher will then spend the session discussing the text as a group and posing questions which will challenge each child's understanding of what is being read. As part of this session, the teacher will also listen to each of the children read and check the reading strategies that are being used. As this is a taught session and there needs to be the opportunity to learn, the guided reading book will be pitched at a level of around 90 – 95% accuracy. The children should be able to read the book independently but be challenged by it.

The small model of guided reading allows children to be taught in a way that is intended to be more focused on their specific needs, therefore accelerating their progress.

In KS1 and KS2, guided reading happens between 9:00am and 9:30am every morning. The children take part in a 'reading workshop.' In Early Years, the children take part in a weekly guided reading activity.

As part of the reading workshop, the children will experience a different reading activity each day. These activities may include, comprehension activities, First News (A newspaper for children) with related activities, a phonics/ word based activity and cosy reading.

Guided reading is one session that is taught as part of the workshop. The day after a group has taken part in a guided reading session, they will work on a 'follow up' activity. This task is aimed at challenging and consolidating their learning from the previous day.

Independent Reading

Independent reading is when a child reads a book on their own or with little support. Your child's home school reading book is intended to be an independent reading book so might appear to be an 'easy read.' By reading independently the children are able to practise fluency. The children are expected to be reading at between 95% - 100% accuracy.

In Early Years and lower KS1, children will still benefit from some adult support, however as your child moves into Year 2 and becomes a more confident reader, they will begin to be able to practise their fluency.

In KS1, your child's home school reading book will be a sticker banded book. In KS2, your child will move onto an 'Accelerated Reader' book – also referred to as their AR book.

Accelerated Reader

AR is a computer program that allows teachers to monitor children's independent reading practice. Each child will choose a book at their level and read it independently. When finished, they will take a

short quiz on the computer. AR gives both the child and the teacher feedback based on the quiz results. Your child will be given a reading level and can then choose a reading book within this colour band and point range. The teacher will use the information from quiz results, together with knowledge of their guided reading practice, end of term test results and their professional judgement, based on their knowledge of your child, to direct ongoing reading practice. Each class has a selection of Accelerated Reading books to choose from. However, if your child is interested in a reading book from home, Accelerate Reader has over 27,000 books where AR quizzes are available. All you need to do is go onto arbookfind.co.uk where there is an option to type in the title of a book into a search bar. This will tell you whether there is a quiz to accompany the book and what the level of the book is. If choosing a book from home, we encourage parents to allow their children to choose a book that is pitched at their advised level.

If you would like to support your child at home with their reading, there are lots of ways that you can do this. Each child has a reading journal which is complete with reading expectations for each year group and tips on ways in which you can support their learning. Also sharing a book of interest together is a fantastic way to encourage a love of reading!

If you have any questions regarding reading, or any other aspect of the English curriculum, don't hesitate to ask.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Speak.