



# Literacy

# The importance of reading and phonics at St John's

Reading plays a vital role in the development and education of your child. At St John's, we ensure that pupils have many opportunities to read, throughout all areas of the wider curriculum.

## Phonics

In Key Stage One and early Key Stage 2, we deliver a consistent approach to phonics using a programme called Letters and Sounds <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

This is supplemented by the interactive teaching resource 'Phonics Play'. <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>. Through our 20 minute daily sessions, the children are taught the two elements of phonics, **blending** which supports reading and **segmenting** which supports writing. Throughout the teaching of phonics, children are also introduced to tricky words. These are words that do not follow the conventions taught, like 'the' and 'said'.

There are six phonic phases that the children work through. On completion of the phases, children will move onto a programme called 'Support for Spelling' <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110809091832/teachingandlearningresources.org.uk/collection/35326> which continues throughout Key Stage 2. This continues to develop the children's spelling and phonic skills through the teaching of spelling rules and patterns.

There is more detailed information about each of the phonics phases we teach at St. John's online, in the St John's Phonics Page.

## Reading schemes

At St John's, we use a Book Banded reading scheme where the children read through a set of colour banded books. Each colour in the book band is a different level and the books the children can choose, are from the Oxford Reading Tree and other various published schemes. There are fiction and non-fiction books within each level.

Reading Band
Pink Level
Red Level
Yellow Level
Blue Level
Green Level
Orange Level
Turquoise Level
Purple Level
Gold Level
White Level
Free Choice

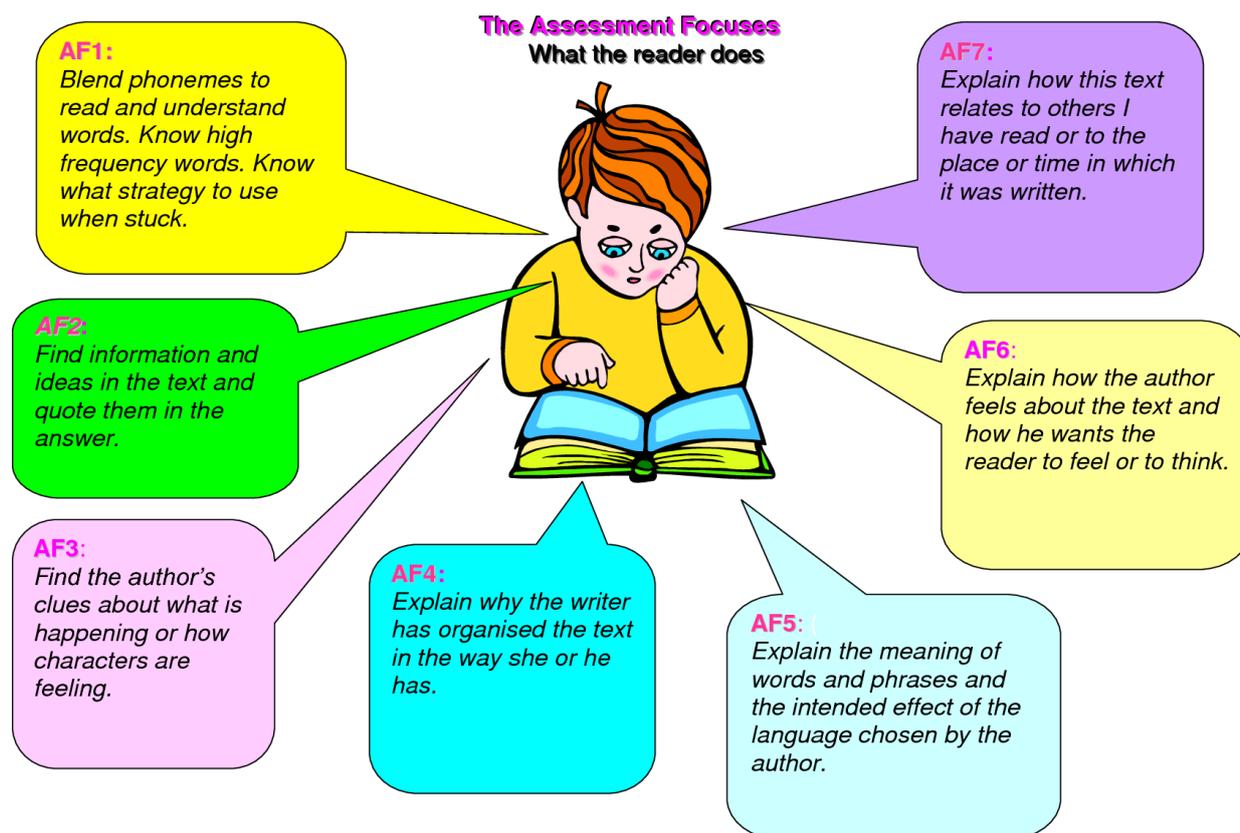
When the children are confident, independent and fluent readers, they become 'free readers' which means that they can have a free choice of reading book.

## Reading lesson

In KS2 there is one English lesson a week dedicated to the teaching of reading skills. In these lessons, children are taught the seven assessment focuses which are needed to enable them to fully understand what they are reading.

There are different areas that teachers look at to assess reading. We call these assessment foci or AFs.

There are different skills children need to develop beyond breaking down words and reading them fluently, so that they can fully understand the piece of writing.



## Other opportunities for reading

Pupils also read regularly in other areas of the curriculum and in other parts of the school day through:

- **Guided Reading** - Teachers work with small groups of pupils to teach specific and targeted reading skills in a book that is sufficiently challenging.
- **Reading Across the Curriculum** - Pupils read a range of books linked to other areas of their learning.
  
- **Story Time** - In Key Stage One, books are read to pupils for them to hear good examples of reading aloud and to develop an enthusiasm for reading books themselves. Class books are shared with pupils, where they read along with the teacher.
- **Themed days**-At St John's we take every opportunity to celebrate reading! Some of our favourite days in our school calendar are World Book Day and Roald Dahl Day.