



St Mary's C of E Aided Primary School

A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum

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Headteacher: Mrs J Brown MA, NPQH

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Dear Parents,

It has been brought to our attention that it would be useful to have some clarification about the reading schemes and reading opportunities within St. Mary's school.

On entry to school, the children are immersed in picture books; this is the best way to get children talking about illustrations and recognise rhyme, retell stories, talk about characters etc. They will be introduced to a 'Songbirds' scheme which works on rhyming words and builds up other keywords that they should be recognising. This then develops into the schemes that are kept in the KS1 open area. There are two schemes, Oxford Reading Tree and Rigby Rocket books. The Oxford Reading Tree scheme is a word-building scheme which means that as they move through the books in that level it will introduce new words. This is why children can't jump levels. The Rigby Rocket scheme has a non-fiction element and so this might appeal more to boys or children with a particular interest. They contain questions for parents/adults as well. There is a chart on the unit that can help you choose the right books. Children can change their books whenever they are ready, but please remember they can do so many things with a book, e.g change the characters, change the endings, describe the settings, hide words with post it notes, count how many of the word 'the' they can find, draw the character using the describing words, write a list of animals in a book. The children should have an Oxford Reading Tree, a Rigby Rocket and a picture book from classroom book boxes to share with an adult. This is quality one-to-one time in the evening, at bedtime or at the weekend.

Once the children get to stage 12 they move to Treetops books, which are kept in KS2 open area. They are scheme books as well and the pictures get smaller and the printed content grows. The children move through the levels and should choose a fiction and non-fiction text. There is a chart to show you the colours.

After this they are independent readers and we have book bands so they can choose different sorts of chaptered books. They start with a yellow band, then move on to blue band and then green band. This letter comes with a health warning though!! Children should be reading a variety of different books and texts. The school encourages the children to read anything that they are engaged in such as comics, recipes, magazines, fiction and non-fiction books, letters, lists and anything else that allows them to look at print. In classrooms, children will be reading lots of different texts at lots of different times.

We hope that this helps to explain how reading is structured, if you have any further questions we are running a tea and chat session in due course.

Kind regards,
Mrs S Copus
Deputy Headteacher

