

Frequently asked questions

Why has my child got a book without words?

At the beginning of the year we encourage children to use their imaginations and develop their vocabulary by making up their own stories.

To enable them to do this wordless books are available for them to choose!

My child isn't very enthusiastic about reading. What should I do?

The important thing is that you read to your child and foster a love of books by:

- Re-reading favourite books
- Telling stories from memory
- Changing the characters in familiar books
- Showing your child you enjoy reading
- Choosing the place and time carefully

How long should we share a book for?

It's best to be flexible and vary your sessions. Sometimes a short read and a long chat about the book is best. On some days, we know, children just feel too tired, five productive, enjoyable minutes together with a good book is time well spent.

Why does my child keep choosing the same book?

Children love the repetition of language and often learn stories by memory. It is important to encourage favourite books that build confidence and enjoyment (although you may be bored with it—your child will not be!)

What is the yellow reading record book for?

Recording 'wow' moments from your child's reading time at home e.g.

- Recognised the word 'was' today
- Told a great imaginative story using descriptive words
- Predicted what was going to happen at the end of the story

Please do not feel you have to record a comment everyday, only when you observe something new or different!

It is helpful though if you could just note the title of the book, the date and the initials of the adult who read with your child each time.

Thank you!



Reading at St Ives Infant School

Reading is one of the most important skills that a child learns. We aim to help children read with enjoyment and enthusiasm. We hope to foster a love of reading for life. To help the children succeed we like to work in partnership with parents and carers.



Reading at Home

Listening to stories being read is the perfect introduction to reading. When reading at home make it exciting by:

- Choosing a cosy area
- Using different voices for different characters
- Asking children questions about what might happen next
- Looking at and talking about the pictures
- Modelling following the text with your finger
- Encouraging favourite stories which are read repeatedly
- Encouraging your child to join in with familiar stories
- Adding sound effects or actions



Sharing Reading Books at Home

Your child will naturally want to share their book at home with you! When your child is relaxed and you have TIME to share their book, why don't you try:

- Looking at the front cover
- Discussing the title
- Guessing what will happen in the book
- Looking at the pictures
- Making up your own story
- Looking at the text and spotting letters from your child's name
- Allowing your child time to have a go at some words
- Looking for rhyming words

Let your child lead the story time!

How to help your child when they get stuck

Working out new words is at the heart of learning to read. When your child is stuck, don't let him or her become anxious. Instead encourage him or her to puzzle it out.. "let's see if we can sound talk this one..." The adult's role is to judge how to offer support. It isn't appropriate to work on every new word. If the word is obscure it's often better just to tell them what it is.

Try the following ideas:

- Give them time to think.
- Ask them to identify the first sound of the word, then sound out the rest of the word.
- Encourage them to look at the pictures to help them.



In Reception children will:

- Participate in regular shared reading/writing
- Have daily access to the book corner, listening station and writing area during Child Initiated Activities
- Take books to share at home
- Have stories, rhymes and poems read to them on a daily basis



Reading at School

We use 'Letters and Sounds' and 'Jolly Phonic' resources to introduce the children to phonemes (sounds). We also learn to read tricky words that can not be read by sounding out e.g. the, was. Our main focus is to encourage children to segment and blend words in a fun way! eg.

- Pairs game
- Magnetic letters
- Treasure hunts
- Puppets
- Noisy letters.



Keep your eyes open for our new learning displayed on the windows.

Guided Reading

Your child will be taking part in a group reading session led by an adult. This is a time when we relax and share reading for different purposes and practise our reading skills together.

Learning Together

During the year there will be occasions for you to stay and learn with your child in their classroom! It is a great chance for you to understand how your child is learning.