

22nd November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

St Mary and St Peters Catholic Primary School: How we teach reading – answers for parents The Read Write Inc. Phonics programme

We have written this for parents. It explains how we teach reading using the *Read Write Inc.* programme. Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible. We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

How will my child be taught to read?

We start by teaching phonics to the children in the Reception class. This means that they learn how to ‘read’ the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters. Ask them to show you what these are.

The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call ‘tricky words’, such as ‘once,’ ‘have,’ ‘said’ and ‘where’. The children practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the ‘tricky words’ they know. They start thinking that they *can* read and this does wonders for their confidence.

The teachers read to the children, too, so the children get to know all sorts of stories, poetry and information books. They learn many more words this way and it also helps their writing.

How will I know how well my child is doing?

We will always let you know how well your child is doing.

We use various ways to find out how the children are getting on in reading. We use the information to decide what reading group they should be in. Your child will work with children who are at the same reading level as him or her. Children will move to a different group if they are making faster progress than the others. Your child will have one-to-one support if we think he or she needs some extra help to keep up.

We also use a reading test so that we can make sure that all our children are at the level that they should be for their age compared to all the children across the country.

In the summer term, the government asks us to do a phonics check of all the Year 1 children. That gives us extra information about their progress. We will talk to you about how well your child has done, and especially if we have any worries at all.

How long will it take to learn to read well?

By the end of Year 2, your child should be able to read aloud books that are at the right level for his or her age. In Year 3 we concentrate more on helping children to understand what they are reading, although this work begins very early on. This happens when the teacher reads to the children and also when the children read their own story book.

How do I know the teaching will be good?

Set Sail for Success



East Anglian Way, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR31 6QY
office@smspprimary.norfolk.sch.uk **www.smspprimary.co.uk**

01493 445 117
@SMSPGorleston



All the staff have been trained to teach reading in the way we do it in this school. We believe that it is very important that all the teachers and teaching assistants work in the same way. Senior teachers watch other teachers teaching to make sure that the children are learning in the way we want them to learn.

If you are worried about the teaching or you have any questions, please come to school and talk to us.

Does it matter if my child misses a lesson or two?

It matters a lot if your child misses school. The way we teach children to read is very well organised, so even one missed lesson means that your child has not learnt something that they need to know to be a good reader.

Home Reading Books and Changes to 'Book Bands'

From Monday 22nd November the school will no longer be using the coloured 'book banding' system for home reading books in EYFS and Key Stage 1. This is in line with National Requirements whereby children are encouraged to read 'real' books as early as possible.

Your child will be given a reading book linked to the sounds and words that they are learning in their Read, Write, Inc phonics group. Please see attached information booklet for tips on how to approach the reading of these books at home. This book will then be changed every 3 days. This is to ensure that your child has an in-depth understanding of the sounds and words and they have developed the understanding to attempt the next book. It is good practice to repeat the same book to ensure that the learning is embedded.

The children will also have a 'real' book either from the class or school library. The children will be given the opportunity to change these on a daily basis so they have always got new reading material available to them.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to speak with the class teacher in the first instance.

Kind regards

Ms S Cullum
Senior Teacher & Reading Leader