

THE SCOOP

EXTRA

Reading is the **KEY** to learning



St James'

Church of England
Primary School

October 2023 #welovereading

Reading at home: Parents as partners

English: Reading Special #1

At St. James' Primary School we believe that reading is an essential life skill and is the gateway to all learning. Reading is at the heart of our curriculum.

The Importance of Reading

The importance of reading for children cannot be underestimated. Reading for pleasure can benefit a child's education, social and cognitive development, their wellbeing, and their mental health.

Engaging with books allows us to be transported to other places and worlds. We can become immersed in the lives of fictional characters or learn more about the world around us.

Reading is a key life skill. It is placed at the heart of our curriculum; we have carefully selected texts which will ignite children's imagination, inspire their curiosity and provide a window to the world.

High-quality books

In Reception and KS1 we will ensure that your child has a reading book which is closely matched to the phonic sounds they are learning or their reading ability. This will support each child grow in confidence and develop fluency and skill as a reader.

As your child moves into KS2 they will continue to bring home levelled books which are suitably pitched to further build both confidence and fluency.



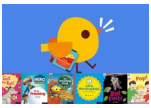
Parents in Partnership

It is crucial for both school and parents to actively teach their children to read. Creating a home environment where reading is encouraged and seen as a pleasurable experience will have a positive impact.

Spending just 10-15 minutes reading with your child every day will be invaluable in developing their ability and desire to read and learn.

Supporting your child at home

- Read at least **4 times** a week with your child.
- Log your child's reading in their Reading Record so that we can see where children may need further support.
- Making reading time pleasurable by finding a quiet, comfortable space and giving your child your full attention.
- Ask your children simple questions as they read to check their understanding of new vocabulary and comprehension.
- Use positive language and praise their reading efforts.
- Read to your child as part of your evening routine. This builds vocabulary, feeds imagination and can even improve sleep patterns.



RECEPTION, YEAR 1 & YEAR 2

Phonics Update: Essential Letters and Sounds



Supporting your child read at home:

To best support us in teaching your child how to read we ask that you read the decodable text provided by school **4 times across the week**. Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming an independent reader.

We will be changing all children's books **once a week** on a **Friday**, this allows your child to re-read each text several times building their confidence, fluency and use of expression. This is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelt in different ways.

It is **a key part of learning to read that children re-read words and sentences that they can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (read with ease and precision)**. By reading texts several times children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency.

The texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school. Your child will be practising what they have been taught in school with you at home. We will only ask children to read books independently when they can decode these by themselves. Any books that are not yet decodable for the children will be a sharing book (this may be a book from our scheme or a library book). These books are there for you to read with your child, helping us to instil a love of reading from the very beginning of their reading journey. These could be read together with your child reading the words they are able to decode or could be read to your child.

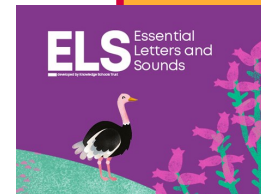
HOME READING RECORDS

Using Reading records at home

We would be very grateful if you would please write in your child's reading record to show each time they have read with you at home.

This could be in the form of a dating with a comment or initialling/ticking to show your child has read with you at home.

Please continue to send your child's reading record into school with their home reading book so we can read and respond, if appropriate, to any comments you have written.



CHELTENHAM FESTIVALS LITERATURE



WE NEED YOU!

Have you got any time in your week to spare? We would love to build a team of parents/grandparents to help hear our children read in school. Please email admin@st-james-pri.gloucs.sch.uk with your availability.

Many of you will know that October is my favourite time of year, as the Cheltenham Literature Festival opens its doors to so many wonderful literary events!

This year, all children in Years 1 to 6 had the opportunity to visit the Literature Festival and there was a real buzz around school.

The children were incredibly lucky to see a selection of amazing authors and illustrators and to hear first hand about the writing process and what inspired the authors to become writers.

We are so fortunate to have such a fantastic opportunity on our doorstep, and I would like to thank all the people involved in making the visits to the Literature Festival possible; from staff in school, to parent helpers and our families for supporting the events.

