

## THE SCOOP

**EXTRA**

### English: Reading Special #2

The Countdown to Christmas is on... and as the weather is feeling colder, I couldn't think of anything better than curling up on the sofa with a blanket and a good book.



*Merry Christmas*

I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

Mrs. Price

English Lead



# St James'

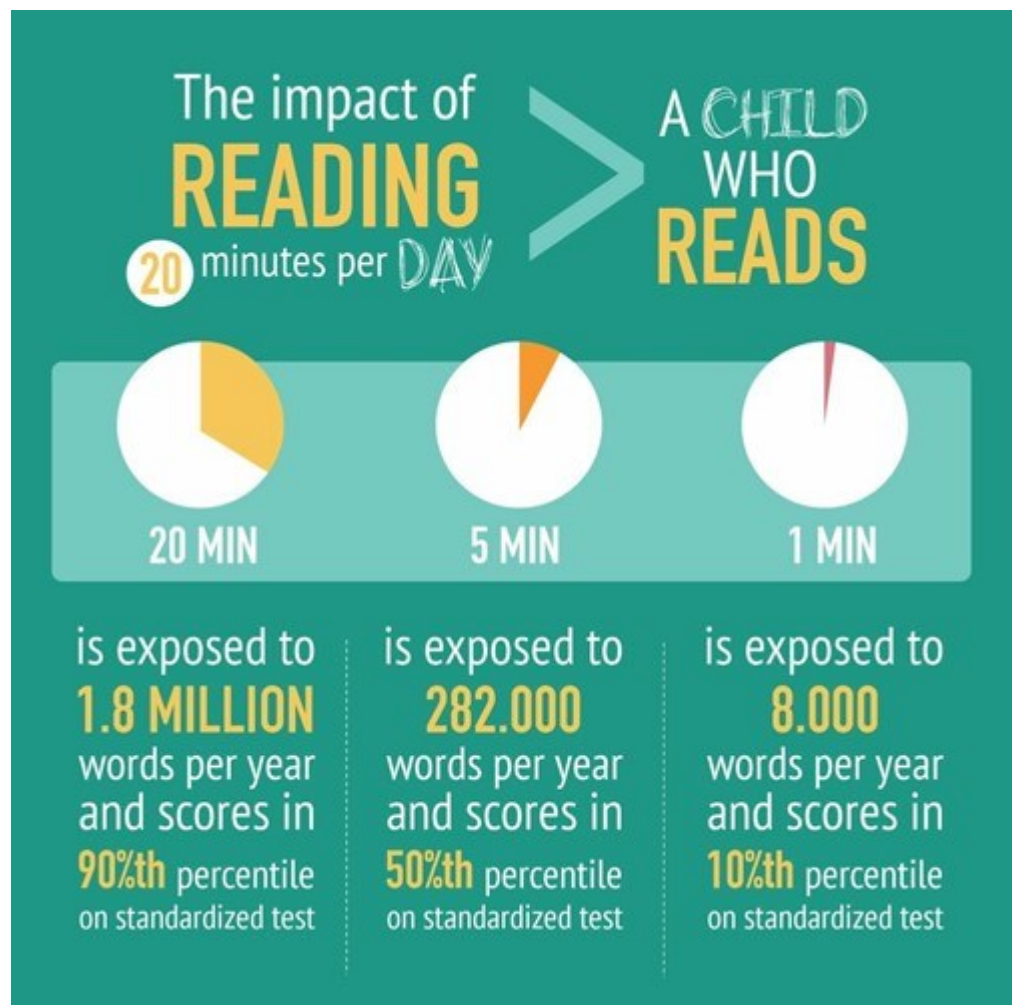
Church of England  
Primary School

December 2023 #weloverreading

In this edition of our Reading Scoop Extra, I would like to share or re-share with you the benefits of reading at home and how, **working in partnership**, school and home can ensure all of our children develop this essential life skill and also develop a real love of reading.

### Did you know what **20** minutes a day reading could do?

Even if you cannot find 20 minutes, **10-15 minutes** also can have a real impact on developing reading, as children practise and embed the reading skills they have learnt in school.



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.

Reading is the **KEY** to learning



## Reading at home can give your child so much more...

Reading at home does not just have an impact on academic success. The benefits young readers can gain from reading for pleasure can not be underestimated. Research from the National Literacy Trust has shown us that children and young people who like to read are three times more likely to have better mental health than those who don't.

Reading for just 10 minutes a day can have astonishing benefits. Not only is it a brilliant way to relax and unwind, reading can also help boost your mood, provide an escape from the pressures of life and even reduce stress levels.

## 8 REASONS WHY READING IS GOOD FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH



Reading cultivates empathy and can even improve their social skills.



Books invite them to think and problem solve, thus improving creativity.



The stories of others can help them put their own life into perspective.



Books allow them to escape into other realities and worlds.



Reading can improve their memory and reduce the risk of falling behind.



Reading for pleasure can lower their stress and promote relaxation.



Reading can help development at school and reduce exam anxiety.



Reading before bed can help them establish a regular bedtime routine.



**WE NEED YOU**

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

**A message from Miss Thompson**  
**Don't forget the School Library is open on a Friday afternoon from 3-3:30pm**



# Give the gift of reading this Christmas

## 2023 Christmas Book Gift Giving Guides



As you know we love reading at St. James', and I just wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some links to some particularly beautiful, winter and Christmas themed books.

Head over to The Reader Teacher website for a list of recommendations:

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/christmas/gift-giving-guides>

You don't always need to buy new though, **The British Red Cross Charity shop on the Bath Road** has a fantastic selection of pre-loved books, many in as-new condition.



**Books for Topics**



**The Guardian**  
Newspaper of the year

## Best Christmas Books Recommendations

Best Christmas Books for Children Aged 4-7:  
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/seasonal-events/christmas/>

Best Christmas Books for Children Aged 7-11:  
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/seasonal-events/christmas-ks2/>



<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/dec/07/best-childrens-books-of-2023>

