

## Into the Future

Reading can be a wonderful, relaxing experience and can open up a whole new world for our children. Even in this technological age we need to be able to read, and read a variety of styles and texts. As children progress through the education system, more demands will be made upon them. As parents and teachers we must help our children to become accomplished readers but we also want them to enjoy the experience so that they can go forward into the world with confidence and a skill for life.

### What if my child struggles or is a reluctant reader?

Some children do not find reading easy. They struggle to read the words or to understand the meaning. Children develop at different rates and it may be that in time your child will become an accomplished reader. However some children do have a problem and may need some special help and may need to use a structured phonic and reading program. If you think your child has a problem discuss your concerns with the class teacher in the first instance.

He/she will discuss the problem with the special needs coordinator and the head teacher and a special program will be drawn up to help your child. Help from outside agencies will be sought if necessary.

If your child is a reluctant reader the following may help:

- Try not to worry as your tensions will pass on to your child.
- Don't force your child to read—encourage.
- Be crafty—ask them to read the recipe for something you're cooking or information from a newspaper.
- Read to your child in a relaxed, cosy setting. Make it a pleasant, special, one to one experience.
- Share books with them—you read a page ask your child to read a page.
- Allow your child to read books which are easy then gradually move to more challenging material when your child is ready.
- If your child has a busy social life allow him/her to read for 15 minutes before going to sleep.

# St Mary's

Church of England Aided Primary School



## Reading at Key Stage 2 Information for Parents



## Reading in School

Children read everyday in school in lots of different situations. As part of Literacy we spend 15 minutes working as a class on a shared text and next we work in small groups on teacher led guided reading. We read the text, discuss spelling patterns and vocabulary, parts of speech and sentence structure. We also focus on authorial technique. (Why the author used certain words, phrases and sentences) We discuss how a story is put together - the introduction, the setting, the development of characters, the climax, the events and resolution of the story.

In addition each class does group reading. The texts are chosen to suit the reading level of each child. Children read the book together and then complete some activities related to the text which help to develop higher order reading skills.

All children also have a reading book which they choose themselves and read to themselves or with parents. Comments about the story should be written in their reading records by children and / or parents.

Lots of other reading happens in school in all other curriculum areas, whether it is reading instructions from a work sheet or the white board or information from the internet. Children are constantly reading.

## What are Higher order reading skills

Once children have a good knowledge of phonics and word building we move on to develop higher order reading skills. These are:-

- Inference
- Deduction
- Authorial technique and intent
- Skimming and scanning



**Inference**—Something that is not explicit in the text but is inferred.

**Deduction**—Work out something from clues in the text.

**Authorial technique and intent**—What the author does to get his intended message across.

**Skimming and scanning**—to read quickly to get an overview of the story or to look for particular points in the text.

## Range of Reading

As children get older they are expected to read a wide range of both fiction and non fiction material.

### Fiction

Adventure , Historical, Fantasy, Science fiction, Mystery, Horror, Myths and legends

### Non fiction

Newspapers and magazines, Diaries, Journals, Biographies and Autobiographies, Letters, Leaflets, Signs and posters

In addition they are expected to read playscripts (including Shakespeare) and poetry.



## Reading Records

Every child has a reading record. This is useful for keeping a note of the page your child has read up to and which books they have read. More importantly it is a means of helping children to develop their higher order reading skills. Children are expected to read every day and to comment about the text in their reading record. At KS2 the comments are as important as the reading. A list of questions to help with comments is available in school.

## How can I help my Child?

Children have very busy lives today and reading sometimes gets forgotten. However even if children can read fluently it is still important that they read daily. It is a great help if parents can encourage their children to read—even if it is only for 15 minutes a day—and discuss aspects of the book with them. Show children that you value reading, let them see you reading, share books with them. Encourage them to read a wide range of texts from a variety of authors. Perhaps join the local library.

