

Learning to Read at St Patrick's

One of the most important things that your child will do in their time at St Patrick's is to learn to read.

Before your child starts with us...

When you come to one of our playgroups in the summer term before your child joins us in September, we will share stories with your children and talk to you and to them about favourite books.

Nursery and Reception

Once your child is coming to us every day in Nursery, there will be books galore for them to look at and share and when they are ready, in Nursery or Reception, we will send books home for them to read with you. They will also start to link sounds to letters in daily phonics sessions.

In the Early Years and beyond, the emphasis will be on encouraging the children to love reading and to enjoy stories. Discovering the printed word allows children to find out about the wonderful world around us and to enter fabulous new worlds created by imaginative authors.

We want your children to acquire new vocabulary, to recognise very common words and to develop an enthusiasm for reading. This involves parents and children working closely together for the benefit of the child.

From time to time, we will invite you in to help with reading and to share some stories with the children!

Years One and Two

In Year One an adult will hear your child read everyday and their own reading book will be changed at least weekly. We will be encouraging the children to enter the deeper world of a story, to 'read between the lines' and make sensible guesses about the feelings and thoughts of characters.

This will continue in Year Two when the children will be introduced to our local library and get to know our school library better with the help of a reading buddy in Year 5.

Throughout their infant years, the children will follow a structured programme of reading books that have been sorted into coloured bands. We will explain to you what the different colours mean and how the texts get progressively more challenging. Once a child has mastered many of the books in a particular band, they will be ready to move on to the next one.

It is important to remember that we want the children to do far more than simply decode the words in a book. We want them to understand 'the world' of a story and that means being able to answer and ask questions about books as well as working out what sounds the letters represent.

Children who hear and/or speak another language at home...

If your child hears and/or speaks another language at home, we will encourage your child to learn to read in that language too and ask you to read or to tell the children stories in their home language as well as English. Research tells us that this will benefit your children in the long run.

Years 3-6

In Years 3-6 the children will be introduced to a wider range of literature, both fiction and non-fiction, from classics to the latest contemporary books. Book Weeks, 'No Pens Days' and Authors' Visits generate enthusiasm for reading here.

Once children have finished reading a book, they can do quizzes on it provided by the Accelerated Reader programme. This incentivises many of them to read more and more.

Storytelling and Reading Aloud to Children

We want to develop oral storytelling as a feature of our curriculum and as a way of encouraging the children to develop their own powers of expression, as speakers and writers. We will also continue to read aloud to children *even when they can read perfectly well on their own*.

We ask you to keep reading to them too!

Too many parents and teachers stop reading to children once the children can curl up in a chair or in bed and read to themselves but ***being read to*** is a great pleasure – it allows the mind to concentrate on the images of the story and to relax into the world of the story.

Telling children of 9, 10 or 11 a story or reading aloud to them allows them to experience the story in a wonderful and relaxing way.

To sum up...

Children who enjoy listening to stories and reading become better talkers and writers as a result.

Our aim is to ensure that your children develop a love of reading in their time at St Patrick's which will last for the rest of their lives!