

How can you help your child?

Have a special, quiet place to share books where you can be comfortable

Try to listen to your child read regularly. Little and often really supports your child to progress with their reading.

Always sign and date your child's reading record book every time you listen to them.

Encourage your child to have a go at segmenting and blending to help read unfamiliar words.

Ask questions about the story as you read it. The next page has a list of suggested questions and ideas to encourage your child to talk about the book.

Play 'I spy' games. Can you find words beginning with...? Can you find a picture of a ...? How many ... can you see?

Talk about the meaning of words to help to develop your child's understanding and use of language.

Enjoy reading together by making it fun. Give characters funny voices and engage with the pictures.

Go to your public library regularly. Find the books you loved as a child and read together.

Share and read books to your child– It is important that they hear books being read to them.

Encourage your children to read a range of texts- Fiction and non-fiction books, poems, nursery rhymes, newspaper, magazine articles, food labels etc.



Reading with your Child

Some questions to ask your children whilst reading together.

- Look at the front cover. What could the book be about?
- Who is the author?
- What is an illustrator? What do they do?
- What does that word mean? Read the words around it to help you figure it out (context).
- How can you read an unfamiliar word? Can you sound talk and then blend?
- Who are the main characters?
- What do you think will happen next?
- How do you think that character feels? Why? How would you feel in that situation?
- Can you predict how the book will end?
- Who is your favourite character? Why?
- Is there a hidden message in the story? What is it?
- Can you retell the story in your own words?
- Do you like how the story ended? Can you think of another way the book could have ended?



Non-Fiction Books

- Tell me two things you found out that you didn't know before.
- What does this part of the text tell us about....?
- Which part of the text tells us about...?
- Why are some words in bold?
- How does this text layout help the reader?
- How does (a diagram/picture/caption) help you to understand the information on this/these pages?

Help Your Child With Reading

EYFS and Key Stage 1

At St John's Primary School, we use a phonic approach to teach children to decode words. Phonemes are units of sound, taught to the child to help them build words. Initially, children learn the single (alphabet) sounds, moving on to digraphs (2 letter sounds) and trigraphs (3 letter sounds). From the first stages of reading, they are taught the skills of segmenting and blending and are encouraged to use this as their main approach to reading unfamiliar words. There is a rhyme to support each sound. Using these rhymes can help your children practice the sound they are being taught in school and supports them with the recall of the correct letter formation.

Alongside this, they are taught high frequency words. These are the common words that do not follow the phonic rules and patterns that the children learn at the early stages of reading. We call these 'tricky' words.



Your children will bring sounds and words home to practise. We want your child not only to learn to read but to become a real reader. To achieve this, we introduce children to a range of books in order to support them to develop a love of reading and a delight in all that books have to offer through fiction, non-fiction and poetry.