

Reading! Information for parents....

At St. Andrew's School we teach children to read in a variety of ways - **shared reading, guided reading** (also called group reading), **individual reading** and in 'Letters and sounds' sessions on a daily basis. Below are some examples of how your child is learning to read at school, and your role in this as a parent or guardian.

Reading at Home

At St. Andrew's Infant School we expect your child to read at home EVERY day and this should be recorded in your child's reading record.

This will be checked weekly and your child will receive rewards in school for regular home reading by moving along the Reading Rainbow.

Individual reading at home is the most valuable reading time your child can have! Even a five or ten minute session a day with your child can greatly improve their reading ability. It may not always involve hearing your child read to you, it may be that you are 'sharing' the book and discussing its content. You could also play a matching game with high frequency words, or bingo, or just finding certain words on each page of their book. **Above all else, this should be a time where your child enjoys reading. We do not expect your child to read a whole book every evening.**

Please sign your child's reading record every day when you read with them, practise their words or do any other reading activity.

Reading other books and texts apart from school reading books is also very valuable and it does not always have to be their school reading book that they read.

Guided Reading / Guided Phonics

Your child may read as part of a small group or play phonics games once a week at school. They may be reading a non fiction or fiction text and it will match the book band that they are currently on.

Individual Reading

Your child will read to a teacher, teaching assistant or parent helper at least once a week.

The child's book will be changed if they have finished it. We encourage children to choose their own book from their book band. This helps children to develop reading for pleasure and to have ownership over their book. Books within book bands may include books from different schemes and different genres - to ensure children are reading a wide variety of texts.

Children may also change their book during the week if they have finished reading it at home. We do need parents to sign the reading record to ensure they read the book at home.

Letters and Sounds session

All children in all classes will have a 10 to 15 minutes session of Letters and Sounds every day. The session may focus on a specific phoneme (eg. 'a') or diagraph (eg. 'ch'). The session may also focus on 'tricky words' (words which are hard to sound out eg. 'the') or on blending and segmenting words for reading. We often play lots of fun games during these sessions!

Shared reading

Often we will share a 'Big Book' with children as part of a shared reading session. The whole class look at the text together and the teacher is able to model good reading skills such as using the picture to help predict, using the context of the sentence, pointing to words, using expression when reading speech, using punctuation to read with expressionetc.

We hope this has been helpful! Any questions?... please feel free to chat to your child's class teacher or Miss Brown and Mrs. Halbhuber as English Subject Leaders.

Miss R. Brown and Mrs. S Halbhuber
(English Subject Leaders)