



Reading at St Mary's

Your questions, answered!

How often should my child bring their book bag to school?

We like the children to have their **book bag in school every day**. Although they will normally have one set day for reading with an adult, there are often additional opportunities for them to read

How many times each week will my child read with an adult at school?

Your child will read at least once each week with an adult. We call this session 'guided reading'. The children are in a group, usually based on their reading ability, and this is an opportunity to ask and answer questions about the text and to read independently. They are all listened to read individually during guided reading. Where possible, your child might have two guided reading sessions in a week, one with the class teacher and one with a member of support staff.

What books does my child read with the teacher at school?

The book we read in guided reading, stays in school; we don't use the home reading books for guided reading. There may be additional opportunities for children to read on a one-to-one basis with an adult and in this case, it **would** be the home reading books that we would read.

What can I expect to see in my child's book bag?

We know there are many different ways in which a child learns to read. In school, we teach children to use their phonics for 'sounding out' but also to recognise 'tricky' or sight words - words that cannot be sounded out. For this reason, we send home something that gives the children opportunity to practise both skills.

- Your child should have an Oxford Reading Tree book (these are mainly made up of words that cannot be sounded out and require children to recognise them 'on sight' and use other clues, for example, the pictures)
- Your child should also have something that gives them the opportunity to practise their phonics. This will be **either** a phonics book (such as Floppy's Phonics), some flashcards, or an activity sheet *

*If your child is a fluent reader they will have a 'free choice' book instead of a phonics book

Books are only changed weekly if the child has read both. We are flexible with this so please say if you would like to keep any books for longer by commenting in the reading record.

What should I do if my child brings home a book they have already read?

While we want the children to progress through the 'stages' of the reading scheme, we also want to make sure reading skills are practised and consolidated. This might mean that if we notice a particular spelling pattern needs revisiting, we send home a book to reinforce that. However, if you think this is happening often or if you feel they have gone 'backwards' in the scheme, please let us know.

What should be written in the reading record?

After the guided reading session, the teacher or teaching assistant will write a comment to say that they have read with your child. They might also record the key words to practise at home, or another little learning point. We would encourage adults at home to also comment in the book. Just a few words about your child's reading, something such as 'Read with Dad – great reading!' or 'Working hard to sound out the words' is fine! This is also a good opportunity for you to comment on the book itself, something such as 'Found some of the words in here quite tricky' or 'This was an easy text for ...' We will make sure we assess the level if we get a message like this.

What can I do to help my child at home?

There are copies of 'Reading at Home' leaflets available from your child's teacher or the school office. These are also available electronically on the school website. Each leaflet has many ideas for how to help your child at home. There are also videos of how we teach reading at school, on the website. 'Recommended Reading' flyers for the different age groups are also available on the website.