



**St. Anne's**  
Catholic Primary School

*"living and working as  
Jesus taught us"*

# Reading at Home

A booklet for

Parents



## Reading at home

Reading has been a success at St. Anne's for many years. Much of this success can be attributed to the support and encouragement that children are given from reading with parents at home. Strong home-school partnerships are highly beneficial to reading development throughout a child's time at primary school. This document offers ideas and suggestions to help you and your child gain the most from these reading experiences.

### Reading Material

At school pupils are given access to a wide range of reading materials. Equally they are assessed regularly so that the band of book selected is appropriate for the child. Sometimes a book will be chosen for them at other times the children will choose their own selections. It is also important to remember that reading opportunities are all around us, everywhere. These may include choosing from a menu, reading advertisements, looking at sign posts, direction, reading letters, comics, newspapers, sports reports, making a model or rules for a game... the list is endless!

### Supporting your child at home

In the early years, children learn a vast amount through play. At school, play areas are equipped with resources for reading and writing, which means that literacy is readily available to pupils. At home, play remains just as important encourage them to make use of

the literacy materials you have (calendars, diaries, telephone directories, recipe books, newspapers, magazines, cards, postcards, letters, bills.)

### **When they make a mistake?**

All readers make mistakes and it is sometimes necessary to prompt if the child is losing the flow of a story. However, it is not always advantageous to provide words too quickly as it prevents the child re-reading and correcting the mistake spontaneously. It is also sometimes more useful to encourage young readers to guess at the meaning by using the context of the passage or pictures. This helps them to develop useful strategies which will lead to greater fluency and independence with reading.

When it is necessary to prompt, establish the initial letter and see if you can sound out the word together. Can the children use their Read Write Inc sounds and spot these?

### **Other ways to support Reading**

#### **HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ A WORD...**

- Which letter phonemes do you recognise? Can you blend them together?
- Does the word make sense? Read the sentence again to check.
- Is there another word that would make sense?
- Is it a word you know?
- Are there bits of the word that you recognise?
- Miss out the word, say 'mmmm,' finish the sentence. Then go back and work out what the word was.
- In a rhyming book, think of a word that rhymes.

## **AS THE CHILD BECOMES A MORE CONFIDENT READER**

It is still crucial to read with your child even when they have become a more confident reader.

## **CONTINUING TO SUPPORT AND GUIDE YOUR CHILD**

Do not worry if your child's reading is not 'word perfect.' If they are making sense of the text, this does not matter.

## **SUPPORTING THE CONFIDENT READER**

Confident readers may have reached the stage where they no longer wish to read to an adult and want to read silently to themselves. The interaction between the parent and the child changes at this stage. To ensure that the child's reading development continues to move forward, we would encourage parents to question the child about what they are reading at an appropriate time, to extend their reading and share their enjoyment of the book.

The following questions will provide ideas that you can extend to suit individual needs.

- What is the title of the book?
- Who is the author/illustrator?
- What made you choose this book? (Author, cover, illustration, recommendation etc.)
- Did you read the blurb before selecting the book?
- Could you tell anything about the book before you started reading it? What were the clues?
- Have you read this book before? Why have you chosen it again?

### Questions to ask before your child begins or resumes their book...

- What has happened so far?
- What will happen next?
- What are the clues which make you think this?
- How would you like the story to end?
- Are you involved in the story? Why?
- Where is the story set? Is there a description?
- Who are the characters in the story? Who do you like/dislike? Why?
- Do you feel similar to any of the characters? Tell me what is similar?

### Questions to ask when your child has finished their book...

- Was the book as you expected?
- Was there anything that you disliked about the story?
- At what point did you decide you like/disliked the story?
- Did you notice anything special about the way language is used (descriptive writing, short sentences, dialect.)
- If you had written this book, how would you have made it better?
- Has anything that happens in this book ever happened to you?
- Can you describe an exciting moment or favourite part of the story?
- Is the story straightforward? Is there more than one story happening at the same time?
- Who was telling the story?
- Was this the most important character in the story?
- Do we get to know the characters quickly or do they build up slowly through the book?

- Was the ending as you expected?
- Would you recommend this book to your friends? Tell me what you would say to a friend.

### **ADVICE IF READING BECOMES A CHALLENGE AT HOME**

- We would like all of our children to enjoy reading rather than see it as an effort/hardwork/something they don't enjoy.
- Offer alternative reading material, eg. Internet access, magazines, non-fiction
- Encourage reading at different times
- Buy/borrow book on CD's from the local library.
- Share reading activities and interact with the text together.
- Share the problem with your child's class teacher, we are always here to help!

### **Reading to your child**

Remember that it is also important for children to be read to. There is almost universal agreement that listening to stories is 'good' for children who are learning to read. You can motivate your child to read regularly sharing a book with them. Your child will sense your love of books, your enjoyment of a good story and your appreciation of good illustrations. With younger children it can be fun to read familiar stories together pointing at the words and allotting children to enjoy the stories. With children of any age it will help to develop imagination and enrich vocabulary.

### **Reading Plus**

Children in KS2 (and some chosen Year 2 children) have access to Reading Plus. This is a personalised online learning programme for your child which they can access from anywhere. The programme works on the principle of improving their fluency, understanding

of vocabulary and reading comprehension. This is a fantastic resource which St. Anne's have invested in this year and will really help to aid the progress of your child.