

# Reading Curriculum Information

At St Ignatius' Catholic Primary School, we truly believe that learning to read is one of the most important things your child will learn at our school.

Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.

We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

## How will my child be taught to read?

We start by teaching phonics to the children in the Reception class. This means that they learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters. Ask them to show you what these are.

The children also practice reading (and spelling) what we call 'tricky words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where'.

The children practice their reading with books that match the phonics and the 'tricky words' they know. They start thinking that they *can* read and this does wonders for their confidence.

The teachers read to the children, too, so the children get to know all sorts of stories, poetry and information books. They learn many more words this way and it also helps their writing.

## What can I do to help? Is there anything that I shouldn't do?

You will be invited to a meeting so that we can explain how we teach reading. Please come and support your child. We would very much like you to know how to help.

When reading your child's school reading book with them, help your child to sound out the letters in words and then to 'push' the sounds together to make a whole word. Try not to refer to the letters by their names. Help your child to focus on the sounds. You can hear how to say the sounds correctly at this link:



We know parents and carers are very busy people. But if you can find time to read to your child as much as possible, it helps him or her to learn about books and stories. They also learn new words and what they mean. Show that you are interested in reading yourself and talk about reading as a family. You can find out about good stories to read to your child on each class webpage.

### **Does it matter if my child misses a lesson or two?**

It matters a lot if your child misses school. The way we teach children to read is very well organised, so even one missed lesson means that your child has not learnt something that they need to know to be a good reader.

### **Reading at Home**

We want to encourage you to read with your child for at least 10 minutes every day. It really does make a difference to all their work in school.

Talk about illustration, book titles/authors, the type of book (e.g. fiction, non-fiction, plays, poems) – as these all build up valuable reading skills.

Remember to ask questions about the book you read with your child. It is all about **reading and understanding the book**.

Remember to write in your child's reading diary.

Read anything! Remember newspapers, comics, recipes, instructions, traffic signs, shop notices, shopping lists etc... all count as reading!

Sharing a bedtime story is a lovely end to the day – your child gets to hear an adult read to them. You can talk about the story, make a prediction about what might happen and look at the pictures. These are all important comprehension skills.

### **Library**

At St Ignatius' we are very fortunate to have a qualified librarian running our library. The children have the opportunity to visit the library each week and are supported in picking a book of interest to them whilst also encouraged to try new authors and styles.

### **Reading Clubs**

We run two reading clubs at St Ignatius'. The Fantastic Book Awards for children in upper Key Stage Two and the Brilliant Book Awards for children in Year Two. Our reading groups join children across Lancashire reading a selection of the latest books to be published and voting for their favourite.

At St Ignatius' we aim to ensure that by regular reading both in school and at home our children will develop a love of literature and be inspired by what they read.