

Parents' Guide to Reading EYFS



*The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go!*
~ Dr Seuss

Parent Partnership

At St Simon's, we believe that parents play a key part in helping their child learn to read. School and home working together in partnership create the ideal setting for encouraging a love of reading.

We appreciate the commitment parents make to help their children become confident readers and hope that this guide will help you to truly develop a love of reading at home with your child.



*"Whatever we do,
we do it for the glory of God."*

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Reading Records

Each child is provided with an individual reading record. Your child should bring their reading record and reading book home every night and return it to school again the following day.

How to use the reading record:

- Write the date, title of the book and the page(s) read.
- It is expected that you read with your child(ren) every night.
- If you wish to comment on how well your child read, please do so, but please make sure these comments are positive and share your pleasure with your child.
- Please sign the record so that staff know who heard the child read.
- Reading books are changed in school twice weekly.



Reading Bands

The 2014 National Curriculum is underpinned by the idea of mastery: that children learn fewer things in greater depth. Children at St Simon's are therefore not moved onto the next reading colour band unless they have shown secure understanding at their current level. Children are not expected to rush through all of the books in a particular stage – some children may read the same book several times – this is to ensure that children fully understand each text and develop a mastery of reading at each level.

Children enjoy and get satisfaction from re-reading good books. This helps build a love of reading and gives them confidence, as they are not worrying about what the next word may be. When they know most of the words, children can then turn their attention to reading fluently and with expression.

Coloured Bands in order

Pink
Red
Yellow
Blue
Green
Orange
Turquoise
Purple
Gold
White
Lime
Brown

Beginning reading

In Nursery and Reception, children begin to learn to read using phonics. This involves learning letter sounds and shapes, hearing and saying the sounds in words in the correct order as well as being well on the way to being able to read and write the 44 phonemes or sounds in the English language. They also need to recognise and remember those tricky words that cannot be sounded out letter by letter e.g. the or said.

There are special phonic decodable books that help them to practise their early reading.

At first your child will receive picture books. This is an opportunity for you to talk the story through with your child and discuss what can be seen in the pictures to develop their oracy through speaking and listening.

As children progress with their reading they will start to use their phonics to recognise letters and sounds in words and sound them out by themselves. Please praise your child for their decoding and, when necessary, help them to sound out unfamiliar words.

Reading aloud

Research has shown that reading aloud to children helps them to develop not only their reading skills but also their writing. This is because being read to helps pupils to develop their knowledge of language and story structure and provides them with a greater range of ideas which they can use in their own writing.

Reading aloud a story is also a great chance to spend time with your child in a cosy, comfortable atmosphere.

Things to try:

- Read traditional fairy tales, as these contain a familiar basic story structure children can begin to recognise.
- Read stories which include songs and rhymes, such as nursery rhymes. This helps to prepare children for the sounds and patterns in language.
- Model making mistakes (such as pronouncing a word wrong or not pausing for punctuation) and then correcting yourself: *“Oh, that word didn't sound quite right, let me try again...”* This will encourage children to do the same when reading their own books.
- Use a different voice for the speech of each character to help bring the story to life.
- Laugh at funny parts of the story and gasp at dramatic ones – make reading fun and enjoyable!

Encouraging a love of reading

One of the key areas we wish to develop in our children at St Simon's is a love of reading through reading for pleasure.

Ideas for home

- Make reading a regular activity: build in time during the day dedicated to reading. Make this a special time for all the family.
- Always end your reading sessions on a positive note, such as a compliment on how your child's fluency is improving, or a comment about how you can't wait to read again tomorrow.
- Look for opportunities to read books which are about topics your child is really interested in. Magazines, leaflets and newspaper articles count as reading too!
- Share your own love of reading: talk about books you loved when you were younger and be seen reading yourself.
- Visit your local library.
- Look out for author events at local libraries and book stores near you.
- See if your child's favourite author has a website. Some authors also have emails which you can use to contact them and may even email you back!