



Reading at St. Stephen's C of E Primary School

Reading Overview

Learning to read is the most important thing your children will learn to do, it is a vital part of a child's learning. Everything else depends on it. At St. Stephen's we put much energy into making sure every child can read as quickly as possible. Amongst other skills, reading can ignite a child's imagination, expand vocabulary and develop independence. It is very important that children are exposed to a range of genres; fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

Teaching of Reading

The explicit teaching of reading happens daily. During this session your child will be taught the important reading skills of word reading, reading for meaning and a wide range of comprehension skills.

Comprehension

When reading at school all adults will ask lots of questions and facilitate discussions so that they are able to assess the extent to which your child has understood the text. The teacher will ask questions which encourage children to use the clues in the text to talk about the book in more detail. These skills include; retrieving key details from the text, understanding new language, summarising main points, predicting what may happen next with evidence to justify opinions as well as inference skills. We encourage parents to do the same.

Reading Records

Reading at home is just as important as reading at school. Whenever an adult at school reads individually with a child, a short comment will be recorded in their reading record and we insist that all parents do the same.

Reading for Pleasure

At St. Stephen's 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. We strive to capture the love of reading and books in a number of ways:

Reading areas in classrooms

Each classroom has an inviting book corner, the purpose of which is to encourage children to pick up a book and read for enjoyment. In addition to this, children are read a class book as part of a daily story time. This also ensures that children see adults reading for pleasure.

Author of the term

Each term two authors are presented to the children. The class School Councillors share information and books with their class about each other. Each child then votes for their preferred author using a ballot like slip. Not only does this encourage children to discuss authors, their backgrounds and themes across their books. It also ensures that they are regularly experiencing the British value of democracy.

The elected Author is then made public and multiple copies of the same texts are purchased. These are displayed in the KS1 and KS2 corridors so that children can access a new book when they are finished.

School and Local Library

At St. Stephen's we are very fortunate to have our own attractive and appealing school library. This has a range of fiction and non-fiction as well as poetry books. Children can access the library at any time to choose a book to read and take home. Children also use the library to research topics using the non-fiction section.

In addition to this, we also have a Library close to the school, Tate Library. Every year, each class visits to library at least once. This experience may support a topic or be part of the classes love for reading. The Tate Library actively ensures that it represents itself at events such as our school Fayres and Parent's Evenings so that as many children and families as possible are members of the Tate library.

Visiting authors

At St. Stephen's we ensure that children experience 'real authors.' We invite authors in to share the books they have written. This is usually followed by a question and answer session. Children are very positive about these experiences, as well as supporting their love for reading it also makes them exceptionally aspirational writers!