

ST MARK'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Headteacher: Ms Laura Kelsey BA (Hons), PGCE, CEPQH

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Importance of Regular Reading

At St Mark's, we take great pride in fostering an environment that not only nurtures academic excellence but also promotes the overall development of your child. In line with this commitment, we want to highlight the paramount importance of regular reading, with the goal of at least three times a week.

Why Reading Matters:

Reading is a fundamental skill that lays the foundation for a successful academic journey and, more importantly, a fulfilling life beyond school. In the United Kingdom, statistics regarding literacy levels and life chances are eye-opening:

According to the National Literacy Trust, approximately 16% of adults in the UK have literacy skills below the level expected of an 11-year-old. This emphasizes the critical need for children to develop strong reading skills from an early age. There is a direct correlation between literacy and life chances. Children who read regularly tend to excel in school, have better communication skills, and a broader vocabulary. As a result, they are more likely to secure well-paying jobs and enjoy a higher quality of life. Reading enhances critical thinking, empathy, and creativity, which are all essential qualities for personal and professional growth. Studies in both the UK and USA have shown that reading more than half an hour a day has more impact on a child's life chances than their socioeconomic background. Teenagers from homes where reading is valued have a vocabulary 42% larger than those where it isn't.

We encourage you to make reading a priority in your child's daily routine. Aim to listen to your child read at least three sessions each week (ideally more, but we know how busy people's lives are!). Each reading session should be at least:

Bluebell: 5 minutes per session

Fern: 15 minutes per session

Bramble: 20 minutes per session

Laurel: 25 minutes per session



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The younger pupils at St Mark's will be sent home with a reading book at their phonics level. The older children will be choosing books from our Reading Corner and Library. All children will be bringing home library books, but for the newer readers, these will be for their adult to read to them.

It is important that you or your child records each session in their reading record so that their class teacher can see that they are reading and how they are getting on. For more fluent readers it is absolutely acceptable for them to be writing their own comments in the reading journal; less confident readers/writers will still need their adults to record in their journal for them.

Here are some ideas to help you and your child to establish good reading habits at home:

Set a Reading Schedule: Establish a regular reading time that suits your family's schedule. Consistency is key to building good reading habits.

Create a Reading-Friendly Environment: Ensure your home has a variety of age-appropriate reading materials, such as books, magazines, and newspapers.

Lead by Example: Children often emulate the behavior of their parents and caregivers. Show them your love for reading by reading together or sharing stories about your own reading experiences.

Visit the Library: Our local libraries offer a wealth of resources and reading programs. Regular library visits can be a fun and educational family outing.

Celebrate Reading: Encourage your child's reading achievements and celebrate milestones together. Reading should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Remember that reading isn't homework; it's a lifelong skill that can open doors to countless opportunities. By fostering a love for reading in your child, you are equipping them with a valuable tool that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Each class goes to the library once a week where your child's class teacher will be able to make recommendations. We also have Reading Champions in school and we have a biweekly 'Book Club' assembly. So there are plenty of opportunities for your child to explore new books and genres that they may not have previously thought about. If you need further help or guidance then please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher for suggestions.



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Together, we can make a positive difference in your child's educational journey and future life

Yours sincerely

Clare Price (Mrs)

Bluebell Teacher



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