

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Coronation Crescent, Madeley, Telford, Shropshire, TF7 5EJ

Telephone: 01952 388255

Fax: 01952 388244

E-mail: a3357@telford.gov.uk

<http://www.stmaryscatholicprimarytelford.co.uk>

Headteacher: Samantha Griffiths

Assistant Headteacher: Helen Lambie

School Business Manager: Nicola Pryce

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Friday 7th October 2022



**Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin
Dental Advice Line**

Do you have an
urgent dental
problem or need
dental advice?



Are you looking
for an NHS
dentist for
routine care?

Monday to Friday
0800-2100

01743 237916

Shropshire Community Health **NHS**
NHS Trust

Why is reading so important?

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

In fact, there's evidence to suggest that reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.



"Reading should be about having fun and adventure and magic, not just 'making progress'." Michaela Morgan



1. **Make books part of your family life** – Always have books around so that you and your children are ready to read whenever there's a chance.
2. **Join your local library** – Get your child a library card. You'll find the latest videogames, blu-rays and DVDs, plus tons and tons of fantastic books. Allow them to pick their own books, encouraging their own interests.
3. **Match their interests** – Help them find the right book - it doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction.
4. **All reading is good** – Don't discount non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines and leaflets. Reading is reading and it is all good.
5. **Get comfortable!** – Snuggle up somewhere warm and cosy with your child, either in bed, on a beanbag or on the sofa, or make sure they have somewhere comfy when reading alone.
6. **Ask questions** – To keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read such as, 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Where did we get to last night? Can you remember what had happened already?'
7. **Read whenever you get the chance** – Bring along a book or magazine for any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's surgery.
8. **Read again and again** – Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems. Re-reading helps to build up fluency and confidence.
9. **Bedtime stories** – Regularly read with your child or children at bedtime. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with your child.
10. **Rhyme and repetition** – Books and poems which include rhyme and repetition are great for encouraging your child or children to join in and remember the words.



Enjoy Reading



Enjoy Reading

Reading with your child

Sharing a book with your child allows you to share adventures and experiences in the safe world of the book. It allows you to ask questions, talk about what has happened and decide what you think together.

Sharing a book can be a bonding experience and for young children, cuddling up with a parent to read a book can be a special time.

Reading is important, but don't feel that you have to take the role of your child's teacher or put pressure on your child to start to read before they go to school. It's great to instil a love of books and language from an early age, but most of all, be led by your child and their interests and pace of development.

"Books transform children's lives - they can open windows onto new worlds, widen their horizons or even just make them laugh themselves silly! Reading for pleasure can give children the key they need to unlock their dreams." Christopher Edge



My child has just started school and is learning to read via phonics. What is phonics?

With phonics, children are taught to read by learning the phonemes (sounds) that represent letters or groups of graphemes (letters).

With this knowledge, children can begin to read words by learning how to blend the sounds together. Unlocking how this alphabetic code works means they can learn to decode any word. For example, when taught the sounds /t/, /p/, /a/, /i/ and /s/ early on, children can read words such as it, is, tap, tip, pat, sip and sat by blending the individual sounds together to make the whole word.

These words can also be broken down (segmented) into their phonemes for spelling. For example, the word 'sat' has three phonemes, /s/, /a/ and /t/ which the children learn to write with the three graphemes (letters) 's', 'a' and 't' that they have been taught.

They will also be taught to read words – such as 'once', 'was' or 'have' – which don't follow the phonic 'rules'. They'll build up a stock of these tricky words that they can recognise straight away.



Top tips on phonics

Say the sounds correctly

It's important that the sounds are pronounced correctly, as they would sound in speech. Try not to add 'uh' to consonant sounds, such as /t/ and /p/, as this makes it trickier to blend the sounds together into words.

Link sounds and letters to make words

Children are taught in school to quickly see a link between the phoneme (sounds) and a written representation of that sound (grapheme). At home, encourage your child to do the same when playing with fridge magnets in the kitchen, for example, or 'writing' when you are writing.

Don't be scared – make it fun!

Phonics can seem daunting for parents who were probably taught to read in a rather different way. However, simple games such as 'I spy' are great for helping reading, because the children have to listen to sounds. Say, 'I spy, with my little eye, something that begins with (for example) the sound 'f-f-f'.' Look at the 'football' or the 'fridge'. Make sure you refer to the first sound (not the first letter). Take it in turns, with your child saying, 'I spy...' Make it lots of fun.

Practise!

Encourage your child to use their phonic knowledge when they are practising their reading. Make sure that they look at each letter in turn, all through each word. Encourage them to work out the sounds and then blend them together to make the whole word. Praise them for trying to use all the letters rather than guessing from just the first letter or the picture.

What difference could I make as a parent?

The short answer is: a lot! Parents are by far the most important educators in a child's life and it's never too young for a child to start, even if you're only reading with your child for a few minutes a day.

Before they're born, babies learn to recognise their parents' voices. Reading to your baby from the time they're born gives them the comfort of your voice and increases their exposure to language.

label
me up

Labelling Belongings

Could we please ask that you label all your child's belongings. Thank you

Scholastic Book Club

There are some great deals to be had here for Christmas. Take a look:

[Scholastic Shop - Scholastic Shop](#)



Speaking and Listening Skills and Development

This is a guide to how children develop speech and language and how you can support your child at home

Between 4 and 5 years old

At this stage, they need to listen, understand more and share their ideas within the classroom. They will use their language skills to help them learn to read.

Children develop skills at different rates but by 5 years usually children will:

- Understand spoken instructions without stopping what they are doing to look at the speaker
- Choose their own friends and play mates
- Take turns in much longer conversations
- Understand more complicated language such as 'first', 'last', 'might', 'maybe', 'above' and 'in between'
- Understand words that describe sequences such as "first we are going to the shop, next we will play in the park"
- Use sentences that are well formed. However, they may still have some difficulties with grammar. For example, saying 'sheeps' instead of 'sheep' or 'goed' instead of 'went'
- Think more about the meanings of words, such as describing the meaning of simple words or asking what a new word means
- Use most sounds effectively. However, they may have some difficulties with more difficult words such as 'scribble' or 'elephant'.

How to Support Your Child

There are lots of things you can do to encourage your child at this stage:

- Building relationships with your child's pre-school or school is very important. Find out what topics or songs they are learning. This can help you support new words and ideas your child is learning
- Playing board games that involve taking turns helps them to listen and concentrate for longer
- Encourage children to talk without being questioned. This can help them to talk more about their experiences. Open questions like 'what are you going to play with today?' encourage children to say more than 'yes' and 'no'. If they find it difficult to answer such open questions, give them choices, such as 'cars or animals?'
- Although children may know lots of different words it is important to introduce new words and phrases. This helps them to continue learning

- Having fun with words and rhymes can help children learn skills they need for reading and writing
- Children may need time to think before responding to questions and instructions. Give them time without answering for them or finishing their sentences.

Between 5 and 6 years old

Often by 5 or 6 years, children have good communication skills. They are better at using language in different ways e.g. discussing ideas or giving opinions.

Children develop skills at different rates, but beyond 5 years, usually children will:

- Focus on one thing for longer without being reminded
- Rely less on pictures and objects to learn new words
- Use their language skills in learning to read, write and spell
- Learn that the same word can mean two things, such as 'orange' the fruit and 'orange' the colour
- Learn that different words can mean the same thing such as 'minus' and 'take away'
- Understand feelings and descriptive words like 'carefully', 'slowly' or 'clever'
- Use language for different purposes such as asking questions or persuading
- Share and discuss more complex ideas
- Use language in a range of social situations.
-

How to Support Your Child

There are lots of things you can do to encourage children at this stage:

- Help them to learn new words, such as words to do with positions, times and size.
- Make time to talk about your day
- Give a child time to talk to you
- Ask open questions like 'tell me something you liked about today'.

Between 7 and 11 years old

Speech, language and communication development is a gradual process. Children develop skills at different rates but beyond 8 years, usually children will:

- Use language to predict and draw conclusions
- Use long and complex sentences
- Understand other points of view and show that they agree or disagree
- Understand comparative words e.g. 'it was earlier than yesterday'
- Keep a conversation going by giving reasons and explaining choices
- Start conversations with adults and children they don't know
- Understand and use passive sentences where the order of the words can still be confusing for younger children e.g. "the thief is chased by the policeman".

How to Support Your Child

Good communication is two-way and requires good listening skills. To help a child, you will need to demonstrate good listening skills yourself. Make sure that you have time for this in your day. You may need to explain words that a child still does not know.

A child's vocabulary will be growing. Help them to understand new words they learn by talking about their meaning. Make sure they are not afraid to ask if they don't understand a word. If you don't know the exact meaning of a word - look it up in a child-friendly dictionary such as Collins Co-Build.

Just by having good conversations with children, you are supporting their language. So, talk to them. Ask them how their day at school was and how their friends are. Hopefully they don't need too much encouragement to talk. Try to encourage conversations rather than just you doing the talking.



Our school's menu can be viewed here:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/388/st_marys_primary_school_menu



<p>4th – 10th October 2022 World Space Week</p> <p>Black History Month</p> <p>4th October St Francis of Assisi Feast Day</p> <p>6th October National Poetry Day</p>	
<p>12th October Harvest Festival</p>	<p>If you can, please donate non-perishables – tins and packets that we can donate to the local foodbank</p>
<p>21st October Wear it Pink Day</p> <p>20th October Kingswood Trip Year 2</p> <p>24th October Diwali</p>	<p>All children to wear something pink or something they love!</p>
<p>Week Beginning 24th October 2022 HALF TERM</p>	
<p>31st All Saints Day</p> <p>31st October Test our best day</p> <p>1st November Phonics and Reading Workshop for parents</p> <p>3rd November Chester Trip Yr4</p> <p>2nd November Year 5/6 HL Curriculum Assembly</p>	<p>All children in every year group are invited to enter our 'Test My Best' competition. Children can bake a cake, take a great photograph, knit, create a collage or make anything they would like to based on the theme of 'Remembrance'. There are certificates for everyone and prizes for winners. The reading workshop will be at 2pm in the hall. All parents are invited.</p> <p>All parents of children in Year 5/6 in Mrs Lambie's class are invited to the curriculum assembly. This will start at 9am.</p>

National Recycling week	
10 th November Black Country Museum Yr 3	
10th November World Science Day	
11 th November Remembrance Week	
13th November School invited to attend church	All parents and children, Catholic and non-Catholic are invited to St Mary's Catholic Church at 11am for Mass.
14 th November Wolverhampton Art Gallery Yr 5/6 trip (Mrs Lambie's)	
Anti-bullying week	
First Sunday in Advent	
21 st November Year 5/6 Trip to Wolverhampton Art Gallery (Miss Carver's)	
Year 6 STAR project with PC Jolly	
30 th November St Andrews Day	
6 th December KS2 morning and afternoon performances	Christmas performances are back! Tickets will be free but limited to two per showing.
8th December KS1 morning and afternoon performances	
Christmas Crafts Week	
14 th December Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumper day	Children can wear a Christmas jumper or something they love.
16 th December Break-up	
Tuesday 4 th January 2022 Children return to school	