

## How is reading taught at St Martin's?

Our aim is that the children of St. Martin's read fluently, confidently and for enjoyment, using a range of skills to develop their understanding. Reading is continually embedded across the curriculum, teachers model reading skills frequently and promote reading for pleasure daily.

### Reading Schemes

Reading is taught individually and as part of guided/group reading sessions where a large selection of the books are book banded into levels. St. Martin's uses a variety of reading schemes across the school. Children use these schemes of work to read both at school and home. This is then supplemented by a range of reading materials included throughout the curriculum.

The following schemes are used within school:

- Floppy's Phonics Sounds and Letters
- Oxford Reading Tree
- Light House
- Rigby Star
- Project X

In KS1, Bug Club, a reading programme which joins e-books with printed books allows children to read at their own level and pace, with rewards to motivate children to want to read more.

### Phonics Teaching at St. Martin's Catholic School.

At St. Martin's Primary School, early reading is taught using synthetic phonics as the main approach to reading. Pupils are systematically taught the phonemes (sounds), how to blend the sounds all through the word for reading, and how to segment the sounds in order to write words. They are taught to use their phonic skills and knowledge as their first approach to reading, but are also taught high frequency words which do not completely follow the phonic rules.

Phonics lessons are undertaken daily and children are taught in 'Phase' appropriate groups with extra intervention groups taking place for those who need a little extra help. The school follows the government published programme "Letters and Sounds".

Letters and Sounds aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children starting by the age of five, with the aim of them becoming fluent readers by age seven.

For a detailed explanation of the various phonics phases please visit:

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/what-is-letters-and-sounds.html>

We also use interactive resources which support us in providing a multi-sensory approach to learning phonics and enhances the children's learning. For more information about how to say letters using the synthetic model visit:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/game/game-phonics-tool>

Here you will find a video of how to pronounce the phonemes (sounds).

In Year 1 the children have to complete the statutory Year 1 phonics screening check. This is a short, light touch assessment to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. It will identify the children who need extra help so they are given support by the school to improve their reading skills. Those children who do not pass the check will then be able to retake the check in Year 2 so that we can track pupils until they are able to decode.

### School Library.

We have opened our new library and it is available for use by all of the children. It is stocked with books from every genre and for different banded levels of readers of all ages. Through the year the library stock is reviewed, changed and added to so that new titles as well as old classics and factual books are always available.

Parents are invited to come into school to change a book with their child on Wednesday afternoons straight after school.

### Reading with your child

Your child's reading book will have been selected from a colour Book Band. This means that whatever book your child has chosen, it will be at an appropriate level for them. Your child should then be able to practice some of the phonic strategies to sound out new

words. At this stage it is vital that the child uses the sound of the letters rather than the name. (c-a-t blends together to make cat, but see ay tee does not!)

One of the greatest gifts that you can give to your child is a love of reading. As a parent, try to focus on making reading fun and enjoyable rather than getting bogged down in trying to teach skills.

There are many, many different things that you can do. Here are just a few:

- Let your child see you reading - This can be a newspaper, magazine, anything you like. This is a powerful message to send to your child.
- Read something with your child - It doesn't need to be a book. The secret is to find something that your child is desperate to read - comics, magazines, football programmes, newspapers, internet pages, texts, e-mails, catalogues etc. However, never underestimate that power of a book that a child really, really wants to read, even if it is too hard for them. If they are very keen to read a particular tricky book then go for it and just help them out when they need it.
- Talk about what they are reading - Talk before you start. Talk whilst you are reading. Talk after you have finished. You can still talk about what your child is reading even if they don't want to actually read with you anymore.
- Praise your child - Studies show that children who are given specific support with their reading make much greater progress if they are given lots of praise than if they are given the support alone.

If you would like more information or ideas to help your child please come and talk to the school librarians, Sue Pitt and Neelam Bajaj or the Literacy coordinator, Sharon Greenwood