Reading at St Stephen's

Wednesday 23rd September 226

St Stephen's
CE Primary School

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How We Teach Your Child to Read

EYFS & Key Stage 1

Small Steps Big Readers

A step-by-step journey from building foundations to becoming confident, fluent readers

Nursery

Building the foundations



- Develop listening and attention skills
- Enjoy rhymes, songs and stories
- Build vocabulary
- Explore sounds in words (oral blending and segmenting)
- Develop a love of books

Reception

Starting to learn sounds



- Learn to recognise letter sounds
- Begin to blend to read words
- Read longer words with consonant blends
- Read simple sentences
- Develop confidence and independence
- Enjoy a wide range of books

Year 1

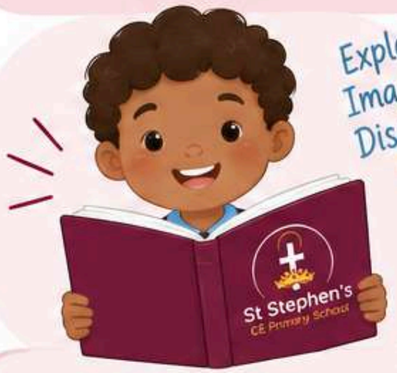
Building and applying



- Learn new sounds and different ways to spell them
- Apply phonics to read a wider range of words
- Read sentences and short texts with increasing confidence
- Develop fluency
- Develop understanding of what we read

Year 2

Becoming fluent and confident



Explore
Imagine
Discover

- Read a wider range of texts (independently and with support)
- Read with fluency and expression
- Use and apply phonics to read unfamiliar words
- Develop comprehension skills
- Grow a lifelong love of reading



Learning, loving and growing;
together as God's children.

Where reading starts

Listening & attention

We help children to develop good listening skills, so they can focus, notice and remember sounds.



Rhymes, songs & rhythm

We enjoy rhymes, songs and rhythm, which help children to hear and notice sounds in words.



Vocabulary & talk

We give children lots of opportunities to talk, explore new words and develop their vocabulary.



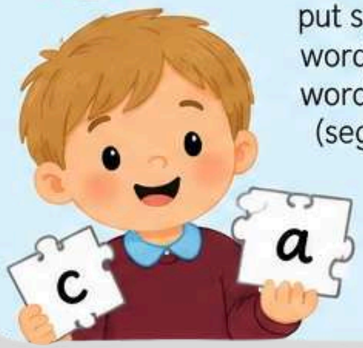
Hearing and identifying sounds

We support children to hear and identify the different sounds in words, like the first, last or middle sound.



Oral blending & segmenting

We play games to help children put sounds together to make words (blending) and break words into sounds (segmenting).



Sharing stories

We share a wide range of stories every day, helping children to develop a love of books and a love of language.



How we teach Phonics

Each phonics lesson follows a clear structure:

1 Revisit & Review

We practise sounds and words we already know.



- ✓ Previously taught GPCs (sounds)
- ✓ Words
- ✓ Tricky words
- ✓ Oral blending and segmenting

2 Teach & Practise

We learn a new sound and practise using it.



- ✓ Introduce the new GPC (sound)
- ✓ Say the sound
- ✓ Hear it in words
- ✓ Blend to read words
- ✓ Learn new tricky words (when appropriate)

3 Practise & Apply

We use our phonics to read and write words and sentences.



- ✓ Read words, sentences and short texts
- ✓ Apply our phonics in writing
- ✓ Build confidence and fluency
- ✓ Develop a love of reading

Reception

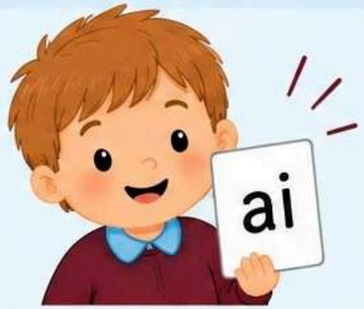
Learning sounds and beginning to read words



- We learn letter sounds.
- We begin to blend sounds to read words.
- We read simple words and sentences.
- We develop confidence and a love of reading.

Year 1

Building on our knowledge and reading more words



- We learn more sounds.
- We explore different ways to spell sounds.
- We apply our phonics to read longer and more challenging words.
- We read sentences and short texts with increasing fluency.

Year 2 and beyond

Applying our phonics with fluency and confidence



- We continue to use and apply our phonics.
- We read a wide range of texts (independently and with support).
- We develop fluency, comprehension and a love of reading.
- We keep applying our phonics when we encounter new and unfamiliar words.

From Phonics to Fluent Reading

A love of reading for life

Once children have learned to decode, we help them become confident, fluent and enthusiastic readers who can understand and enjoy a wide range of texts.

A wide range of texts

We expose our children to a rich and varied range of high-quality texts, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry and vocabulary-rich books.



Reading in our classroom

Our reading teaching is delivered through whole class reading. This gives children the opportunity to:

- Read aloud
- Hear model reading from the teacher
- Practise skills such as choral reading and echo reading
- Discuss, ask questions and deepen their understanding
- Build fluency, vocabulary and a love of reading



Home reading

In Year 2, home reading books are no longer matched to a specific phonics level. Instead, children choose books that support their fluency, comprehension and interests.

This allows them to read a wid range of texts, explore differe genres and develop a lifelong love of reading.



Readers today Leaders tomorrow

READ TALK ENJOY

Together we can raise confident, happy readers!

How You Can Help

A love of reading starts at home!

Read today
A brighter tomorrow



Read together

Share stories, enjoy the pictures and talk about what you read.



Ask questions

Chat about the characters, what might happen next and how the story makes you feel.



Explore more books

Visit the library, try different types of books and discover new authors together.



Make it part of everyday life

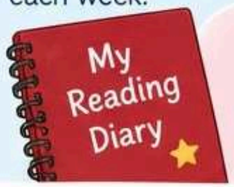
Read signs, menus, labels and anything you spot around you!



At least 3 reads a week



We ask that your child reads at home at least 3 times each week.



Please sign their red reading diary each time they read.

Encourage independence

Give them time to read their own books and choose what they enjoy.



Be positive

Celebrate their efforts and enjoy reading together.

You're a reader!



Make it special

A cosy space, fewer distractions and a calm routine can help.

Little moments make a big difference!



Thank You

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