St Stephen's
CE Primary School

LOVING • LEARNING • GROWING

Together as God's Children.

Reading at St Stephen's

Understanding Words Per Minute (WPM)



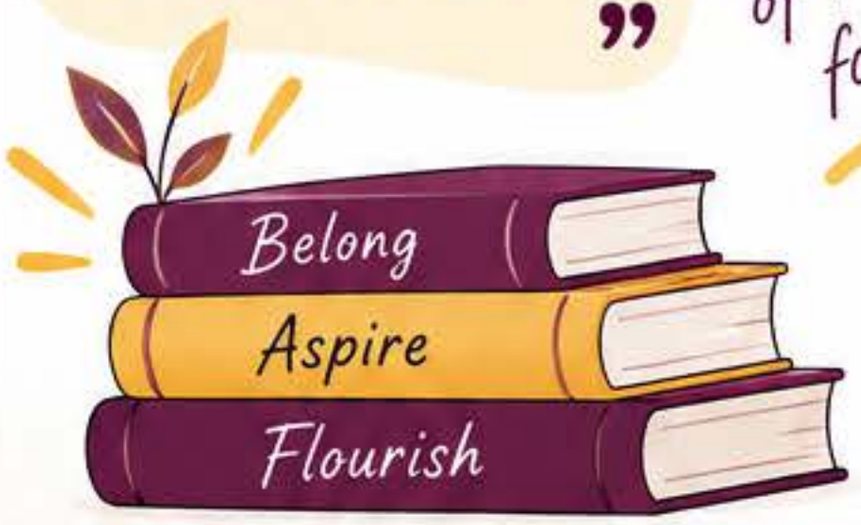
What is Words Per Minute?

Words per minute (WPM) is a way to measure how fluently a child can read a text out loud. It tells us how many words they can read accurately in one minute.

Fluent reading helps children to understand what they are reading, build their vocabulary and enjoy reading. As children become more confident, they are able to read at a faster pace with accuracy and expression.

> "It's not about speed alone – it's about reading accurately and understanding what they have read."

A love of reading for life



Expected Words Per Minute (WPM) scores

The tables below show the typical end of year (EOY) expectations for each year group.

Year 3
End of Year WPM scores

Below	<100
Working towards	100–115
Expected	115–130
Greater depth	135+

Year 4
End of Year WPM scores

Likely to run out of time	<120
Finishes but rushed	120–130
Comfortable, calm completion	130–145
Very secure / surplus time	150+

Year 5
End of Year WPM scores

Below	<130
Working towards	130–145
Expected	145–160
Greater depth	165+

Year 6
End of Year WPM scores

Below	<150
Working towards	150–165
Expected	165–180
Greater depth	185+

How can you help at home?

- **Read regularly with your child,** even for just a few minutes each day.
- **Encourage them to read a range of texts** they enjoy.
- **Talk about what they have read** to build understanding.
- **Celebrate their progress –** confidence and enjoyment are just as important as the number!

Brighter futures together