Reading through the Early years at St Mary's

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together.

In Nursery and Reception we teach reading through Phonics and by reading a wide range of high quality books and stories. Nursery and Reception children have a story read to them at least once a day. In Nursery and Reception children choose a picture book from the 'Swap shop' located in the cloakroom on a weekly basis. Reception children also take home a Little Wandle Phonics book home once a week that they have read in reading practice at school three times. This book matches their Phonic ability and should be read with confidence and fluency at home. Reception and afternoon Nursery children visit the school library weekly.

Nursery

By the end of their time in Nursery, children will have had many opportunities to explore St Mary's Big Ideas **Accuracy, Enjoyment and Comprehension** through Phonics, reading high quality stories and non-fiction books and through informal opportunities to look at and share books in the classroom.

Accuracy

Nursery children have daily Phonics lessons based on the Phase one Letters and Sounds Phonics programme. They explore general sound discrimination through instrumental sounds, body percussion and voice sounds. They explore rhythm and rhyme and alliteration through stories, games and rhymes. Oral blending is practised in Phonics and during child-initiated play. Nursery children are introduced to grapheme- phoneme correspondence during Phonics and adult focus activities and through child-initiated activities. The nursery setting has books in all areas of provision including the home corner and Maths area. The classroom has a comfy book area where children can look at books during child-initiated learning.

Enjoyment

Nursery children are encouraged to **enjoy** a wide range of books through having books read to them at least daily, through story sacks, small world play, role play, through choosing books from the 'Swap shop**'** and through child-initiated learning where they have access to books in all areas of learning.

Comprehension

Nursery children build up their **comprehension** skills by discussing pictures and through questioning during story time and when sharing a book individually with an adult. They explore stories through role play, story sacks and small world play.

By the end of their time in nursery most children will:

Understand the five key concepts about print:

- Print has meaning
- Print can have different purposes
- We read English text from left to right and from top to bottom
- The names of different parts of a book
- Page sequencing

Have developed their phonological awareness so that they can:

- Spot and suggest rhymes
- Count or clap syllables in a word
- Recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother
- Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary

Reception

In Reception we build upon the children's experience of **Accuracy, Enjoyment and Comprehension** through:

Accuracy

We further develop the children's **Accuracy** through our systematic synthetic Little Wandle Phonics programme. Children have three reading practice sessions per week including decoding. The children take home Little Wandle Phonics reading books that are carefully matched to the child's phonic level. Children who do not keep up with the Phonics programme are given keep up sessions in the afternoon as well as their daily Phonics lesson. They learn to blend and are introduced to tricky words that they learn to read. The environment has opportunities to read in all areas of learning both inside and outside.

Enjoyment

Reading **enjoyment** is further enhanced in Reception through story-based topics, a reading den, a sofa with a wide range of books including popular culture books such as Spiderman, a magazine rack with a range of magazines, a story telling area with a range of books and story-telling props, puppets, story sacks, books in all areas of learning including cookery books in the home corner, high quality books and interesting books such as 'The story Orchestra' with Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

Comprehension

Comprehension skills in reception are further developed through reading practice and by reading aloud high quality books, role play, small world play and writing in response to stories.

Throughout their Reception year children learn to:

- Read individual letters by saying the sounds for them.
- Blend sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of known letter-sound correspondences.
- Read some letter groups that each represent one sound and say sounds for them.
- Read a few common exception words matched to the Little Wandle Phonics Programme
- Read simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter-sound correspondences and, where necessary, a few exception words.
- Re-read these books to build up their confidence in word reading, their fluency and their understanding and enjoyment.

By the end of the Reception year, most children will be able to:

Comprehension:

- Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.
- Anticipate – where appropriate – key events in stories.
- Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role-play.

Word Reading:

- Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs.
- Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending.
- Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.