

Reading record expectations

- Children have their books changed weekly. In EYFS. These books are according to the amount they can decode and understand of the text.
- In KS2, these remain challenging for the child and are varied. Support will be offered to children and book bands still used where appropriate
- In EYFS, KS1 and KS2, children are encouraged to read 5 times a week for a reward (sticker/ dojo class dependant)
- Any children in KS2 who are **below** or **working towards** must continue to have theirs checked weekly
- In EYFS & KS1 children are sent home with two books: a decodable book and a choosing book. In KS2 children are sent home with 1 book, with the exception of any children who are **below** or **working towards** or **may have limited books at home** who can take a choosing book home too.
- Across the whole school every time a child receives a written comment from home they will receive a raffle ticket and be entered into a draw that takes place at the end of each term. These can be counted as they go or in counted up before the end of term
- Children are expected to return their books. If a child does not return a book, it is the responsibility of the class teacher to speak to that parent, and provide the child with another book. If books continue to go missing, SLT will offer support speaking to parents. It must be the decision of the class teacher and SLT to stop sending home books for individuals. This is something we really want to avoid- children should have books!

Parent expectations

At St James, we create readers.

Learning to read

Teaching our children to read and write independently will provide them with the key skills they need to access the rest of the curriculum as well as impact massively on their self-esteem and future life chances.

Being able to decode a text alone though is not enough. Children need to understand what they are reading and need to be taught key comprehension skills from an early age. This is done through comprehension activities linked to the books they are reading. We know that good readers question, check and engage with their own understanding and these are some of the skills we seek to develop. Decoding and comprehension need to be taught at the same time.

Our curriculum has a strong emphasis on learning and acquiring new vocabulary. Children need to know what words mean in order to understand what they have read. Texts are chosen carefully with this in mind so that children are exposed to a rich and wide vocabulary.

To help your child, ask questions about books they are reading such as details about characters and plots. Ask them to recall the events of the book when they are younger, and eventually move towards summarising whole texts. Watch the video below of how to read with your child.

Reading at home and reading for pleasure

Most importantly of all, in all year groups, we encourage children to be reading at home every night. Sharing a book together with your child gives you the opportunity to escape into another world with your child and can be bonding and relaxing. Reading for pleasure will help develop your child's vocabulary, communication, empathy, imagination and concentration. Whether this is sharing books by reading together (when children are in Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3 this is crucial) or beginning to read more independently, we advise that all children read for at least 10 minutes a day. Ideally, 20 minutes a day would be the most beneficial.

To help your child, check out the video below of how you can read to your child.

Reading for just 20 minutes a day = 1.8 million words a year!

Once a child is reading independently, they still need to be able to retell their texts coherently and confidently to a parent/carer using book vocabulary and answer questions about what they are reading.

Reading records

Every child is provided with a reading record diary to record what they have been reading. It also provides an opportunity for parents/carers to comment on their child's reading. When parents/carers sign that they have listened to their child read this indicates to teaching staff that the child is ready for new books to be sent home. Children should read every single night with an adult and their diary should be signed every time they read. Sign your child's reading record 5 times a week to receive a special prize from their class teacher!

All children in school will receive a raffle ticket for each comment in their reading record. They will be entered into a draw with a chance to win a book token at the end of term.