



The Value of Reading

When children learn to read at an early age, they have greater general knowledge, expand their vocabulary and become more fluent readers. They also have improved attention spans and better concentration.

Synthetic phonics is a method of teaching reading that ensures all children can learn to read. Through this, children take the first important steps in learning to read. They can also use this knowledge to begin to spell new words they hear.

“Books and doors are the same thing. You open them, and you go through into another world.”

Jeanette Winterson



Early Reading at St Mary's Catholic Academy

We are very proud of the methods we use to encourage and enable children to become independent and excited readers.

We aim to:

- Ensure every child achieves the highest standards of reading through the teaching of a synthetic approach to phonics.
- Provide purposeful opportunities for children to apply their reading skills.
- Ensure all children have an enjoyment of books and be life-long readers.
- Achieve a successful partnership between home and school.
- For every child to be a successful reader and to develop fluency and confidence.
- We aim for every child to achieve the highest standards of reading through purposeful opportunities indoors and outdoors.
- Develop communication and language skills within speaking, listening and understanding.



Reading Enrichment at St Mary's

Parent Reading Workshops

Parents are invited to join in with reading workshops. This equips parents with the skills to further develop their child's reading outside of school.



Library Visits

We visit the library in Hyson Green to encourage a love of reading.

Parent Stories

We encourage parents to read their favourite stories to the class.



Dramatic Deserts Production

Nottingham Playhouse performs interactive stories using puppetry, music and sensory objects to help bring the stories to life.



What does reading look like at St Marys?

There are 6 skills that every child needs to be 'ready to read', and we develop those skills through a range of activities and opportunities.

- **Narrative skills** - The ability to describe things and events and to tell and retell stories.
- **Phonological awareness** - The ability to hear and play with smaller sounds in words.
- **Print motivation** - A child's interest in, and enjoyment of books
- **Vocabulary** - Knowing the names of things
- **Letter knowledge** - Learning to name letters, knowing they have sounds and recognising them everywhere
- **Print awareness** - Noticing print, knowing how to handle a book, and how to follow the written words on a page.

Reading opportunities

- Every child will have a reading or storybook to take home.
- When your child is in F2 and ready to blend, they will receive a reading book from the 'Little Wandle' scheme.
- Books will be matched to the child's phonic ability for as long as necessary.
- We offer fun and engaging multi-sensory story sessions.
- Daily focused reading opportunities take place.
- Highly trained staff teach reading.
- Phonic/early reading skills workshops are offered for parents in Nursery and Reception.
- Highly resourced reading resources e.g. story sacks.
- Each class has core books which are given key focus, to enable the children to engage at a deeper level in the understanding of stories.
- Develop understanding of stories and the ability to retell them, using correct vocabulary and repeated refrains. .
- Key rhymes are used to develop the skill of hearing rhythm in words

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



Read with your child for 10 minutes each night. We like the 'Little Wandle' books.