



St. Michael's Church of England Primary School



Our school values: Respect · Kindness · Challenge · Forgiveness · Perseverance

Dear Parents

23 November 2020

Our Reception pupils have made a super start to life at St Michael's, albeit under very strange circumstances. They seem very confident with their daily routines and are thoroughly enjoying their learning.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some information about our approach to teaching reading here at school.

Mrs Smith, our reading leader within school, has recently completed the next phase of phonics assessments with our Reception children.

The children are thoroughly enjoying learning Set One sounds and are beginning to 'Fred talk' to blend sounds together to read. It is really exciting to see them eager to learn and to start the early stages of independent reading.

Within school, we are following a systematic approach to reading (Read Write Inc.) and as such we feel children benefit most from shared story/picture books until they have a secure foundation, before they begin their journey in becoming an independent reader. It is a much more secure base to start reading simple words and phrases in your own book when you are able to decode with success and accuracy. Children can grow from strength to strength when independent reading is introduced at the right time. Unfortunately, if this is rushed, too many children experience failure and develop low self-esteem with regards to their reading.

As soon as your child is secure and confident with Set 1 sounds and can orally blend accurately to read b-i-n for example, Mrs McArdle will start to introduce word blending books, ditty books and other short books into your child's reading diet, alongside the picture books they currently bring home each Friday.

The key to success is to enjoy lots of shared reading experiences and talk about the books together with your child. Making reading a key part of your daily routine that adds excitement and awe, will help your child develop the best possible desire to want to read.

Be sure we are tracking your pupil's progress in early reading skills carefully, so that all pupils receive the best start with enjoyment and success built in. If you have any questions regarding our approach, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We hope to organise a reading information session in the coming weeks – virtually of course, and an email will follow about this very soon.

Kind regards

Julie Paisley
Headteacher

Fred Talk routine

1. Say the word in sounds as Fred e.g. c-a-t.
2. Ask your child to repeat. Can they 'jump-in' with the whole word?
3. Say the word in sounds followed by the whole word e.g. c-a-t, cat
4. Ask your child to repeat

