



**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
Diocese of Clifton**

**Inspiring everyone to REACH through  
Faith, Hope, Love**

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**Acting Headteacher: Mrs Clare Howells**

March 2022

**Reading – Key Stage Two (Years 3–6)**

Dear Parents and Carers

**How Reading is taught at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**

Reading is one of life's most essential skills. At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we hope that all children will develop a love of books, enthusiasm for promoting their reading skills and grow to be confident, competent readers. Following on from the joy of World Book Day 2022, we would like to share some fantastic news that we have just invested a large amount of money, some of which has been kindly donated by the PTA, in revamping our Key Stage Two reading resources!

As a parent or carer, you play a vital role in supporting your child's reading development, our partnership between home and school is essential for success with this life skill. Your child's reading experience is much more than the reading book which comes home from school.

Reading is happening all the time in our classrooms and across school. It is taught in English lessons, and Guided Reading sessions, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects too.

**Home reading at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School - Key Stage Two (Years 3–6)**

We want all children to constantly progress and develop as readers throughout their time at St Joseph's and therefore we have invested a significant amount of money to enhance our reading provision in Key Stage Two. I have recorded a video to explain this and you will be able to find it on the school website under the tab curriculum and then reading – here is the You Tube link too  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEjK1vDIsel>.

Years 3,4,5,6 will take home **two books**:

1. A book banded library book of their choice (novels or non-fiction). This might be changed less frequently as some of these books are much longer novels.
2. A 'Big Cat' reading book matched to their individual reading level every week. These are part of a progressive scheme specifically designed to develop vocabulary; stamina for reading; and to broaden children's exposure to a range of literature.

Children have a reading record which parents should comment in when listening to your child read at home. Remember that all children are still working towards their reading awards badges – it is great to see these given out during our Friday celebration assembly.

**Lost reading books**

As you are aware reading books do cost a lot of money to purchase and we need to be able to track books which have been damaged or lost by children at home. If your child does not bring their reading books to school during the week, they will be issued with a lost book letter and a reminder is sent home to return the book. If your child for the second week still does not bring their book to school, another letter will be issued

to the parent requesting a fee (which can be up to £5) to cover the cost of the book. Your child will be issued with a new reading book regardless (as it is so important that children continue to read).

### **How can parents support children?**

Parents can support this 'reading journey' through regular reading at home. Reading to and with your child every evening for at least ten minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school.

Here are some tips for reading with your child at home, including:

1. Make time to read - even ten minutes a day.
2. Choose different types of books.
3. Take turns to read.
4. Talk about the book - asking your child questions. Please note, at the back of your child's Big Cat book there will usually be a set of questions and activities you can do together to support the comprehension aspect of reading.
5. Visit the local library together and enjoy books - talk about your favourite texts.
6. Read comics, web site, environmental signs, recipes, instructions, in fact anything at all!

### **Drop in session**

As mentioned on the video (please find the link mentioned above), I will be holding an informal 'drop in' session in my classroom (Year 6) after school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March for you to come and see some of the new books, and ask any questions that you might have.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Knight

(Year 6 teacher and English lead)