



St John's Early Reading Newsletter

November 2020

Welcome back everyone! It is wonderful to have our classrooms filled with the voices of children again: singing nursery rhymes, joining in with stories, reading and sharing books. Our classrooms are buzzing with reading excitement and we want to share that with you each term through our Early Reading Newsletter.

Here at St John's we believe learning to read is one of the most important skills your child will ever learn. In the Early Years and KS1 it is vitally important that strong foundations are laid for our children, so that they can read widely and often throughout their lives. Our staff are passionate about reading and pass that on to the children.

Parents, we recognise that you are our partners in this endeavour, so each term we will share with you some of the work we do to develop reading in school and at home.

Mrs Harrison

Early Reading Assistant Head teacher



Our Key Texts

Each half term our curriculum is driven by a beautiful, carefully chosen book! Each book matches the age and interests of your children and teaches certain themes. Children get to know this book really well and learn to retell it in a story-tellers voice. These are the 'Key Texts' for your child this half term.

Nursery	 Key themes: Light and Dark/ Harvest
Reception	 Key themes: Food, Celebrations
Year 1	 Key themes: Belonging, Identity, Families, Homes, Changes over Time.
Year 2	 Key themes: Nighttime, Overcoming Our Fears

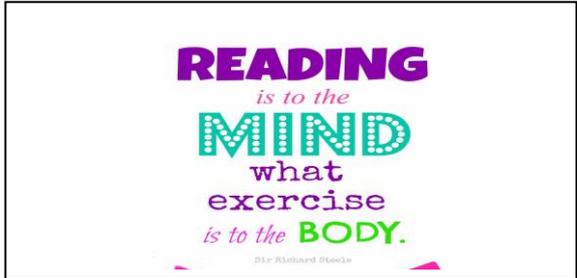
Reading Stories at Home

All of our children in EYFS and KS1 take home a *Reading for Pleasure* book each week. This is a book they have chosen themselves from our class library and can take home to enjoy with their family.

DO read it aloud to your child and point to the pictures on the page, saying the name of the objects that appear.

Do point to the words, moving from left to right, so that your child understands the direction of the print.

Do get cosy and have a lovely experience together! This *shared reading* is a very special experience for your child.



Look at our 'Joy of Reading' events at St John's this term...

Nursery Bedtime Story

Nursery have been really busy this half term welcoming all their new children and families to our school community. The Nursery team LOVE reading and help our children to LOVE reading too! Mr Curry and the Nursery team organised a Bedtime Story after school. The children went home with a hot chocolate sachet, got into their PJs and cuddled up with their teddy whilst Mr Curry, (and his teddy) read a Bedtime Story via Zoom!



An amazing 40 families joined the bedtime Story fun! Go Nursery!

Reception Favourite 5

Our Reception Children love hearing their favourite stories over and over again! Their teachers love reading great stories over and over again too, so the children enjoy them and learn by heart. Each week the Reception children have a **Favourite 5**. Here is RA's **Favourite 5**



Year 1 Rocket Reading Challenge

10...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2...1...lift off!



The Year 1 Rocket Reading challenge took off and children went sky high over Half Term! Our children used some amazing (and free) on line reading books to read: poems/fiction and non-fiction. Mrs Griffiths and Mr McGowan report that there is no stopping the children now, the sky is the limit in their enjoyment of reading! Log in to Oxford Owl to check out some fabulous books which match the children's developing reading skills: https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/please-log-in?open_loginbox=true

Year 2 Reading Challenge



A Year 2 highlight this term was the half term *Epic Reading Challenge*. Our Year 2 children were challenged to read as widely and often as possible- using the amazing (and free) EPIC reading library. 6 **Reading Champions** were awarded a coveted winner's medal. Well done everybody!

Of course reading widely is not just confined to Half Term! Do use the EPIC library to enjoy reading all year round. Just log in at this link:

<https://www.getepic.com/sign-in/parent>