



Inspiring a love of books is one of the best ways to prepare children for a lifetime of learning and enjoyment through reading. It will bring huge benefits at school and beyond, because being able to read early on helps children to understand language, making it easier for them to learn to read themselves later on. As children get older, there's no need to stop enjoying sharing books and reading together.

Research has shown that children who enjoy reading and spend more time reading for pleasure have better reading and writing skills, a broader vocabulary and an increased general knowledge and understanding of other cultures.

Here are some tips for promoting reading at home with older children.

- **Ensure that your child sees you reading.** It doesn't matter if it is the newspaper, a magazine or a cookery book - any reading material is fine!
- **Keep reading together.** Read anything - jokes, riddles, poems-it doesn't matter! Take it in turns to read paragraphs. All children, however fluent a reader, will benefit from hearing an adult read to them.
- **Encourage your child to join in.** Ask your child to read a recipe while you cook or the TV listings to find a programme.
- **Give book tokens as presents and ask others to do the same.**
- **Visit the local library together so you can both choose books.** Discuss your choices.
- **Encourage your child to carry a book at all times so they can read in spare moments** - car journeys, waiting at the dentist.
- **Go to libraries and bookshops when authors are visiting.** Children love to meet their favourite writers.
- **Follow authors on twitter** - some are amazing at connecting with their readers.
- **Make sure your home is a reading home.** Try to have a family bookshelf and make sure there are shelves in your child's bedroom as well.

**Recommended reads!**

YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
 <p><b>Encyclopedia of Grannies</b> Author: Eric Veille Translator: Daniel Hahn</p>	 <p><b>Wild Lives: 50 Extraordinary Animals that Made History</b></p>	 <p><b>The Space We're In</b> Author: Katya Balen Illustrator: Laura Carlin</p>	 <p><b>Top Marks for Murder</b> Author: Robin Stevens</p>

At St Mary's, we develop children's reading skills using VIPERS. We discuss vocabulary, make predictions, explain ideas and retrieve information from the text. Whilst your child is reading, you can also ask questions to prompt discussion and assess their understanding.

### Reading Vipers

**V**ocabulary  
**I**nfer  
**P**redict  
**E**xplain  
**R**etrieve  
**S**equence or Summarise



## Reading at Home Key Stage 2



Can your child...

Predict It	...predict what might happen from what you have read? <i>What happened first? Next? After that? Finally? Why?</i>
Understand It	...explain the meaning of the more difficult words in the book? <i>What does ...mean? Which word means the same as...?</i>
Find It	...pick out information or key details from the book? <i>Which words....? Who? When? Where? What?</i>
Summarise It	...tell you the main points in an information book? <i>What have you learned from this page? ...talk about the main parts of the story? What is this paragraph or chapter about?</i>
Think about It	...think about what has happened in the book and give reasons why? <i>Which words tells you that....? How is the character feeling? How do you know?</i>
Link It	...talk about how things in the book link together? <i>What are the themes in the book? What is the big idea?</i>
Listen to It	...talk about why the writer has chosen words and phrases? <i>How does the book make you feel? Why? Are there parts of the book that you really enjoyed? Why?</i>
Compare It	...talk about different parts of the story or characters? <i>How do the characters change in the story? Does this book remind you of other stories that you have read?</i>

### USEFUL WEBSITES FOR PARENTS WISHING TO SUPPORT READING AT HOME.

#### BOOKTRUST

This is an extensive site giving tips on how to share books; book lists & recommendations; catering for all ages including adults. Highly recommended.

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/children/how-to-share-books/support-your-childs-reading-journey/>

#### OXFORD OWL

Free eBooks; advice and tips for supporting children in KS1 & KS2; lots of games & activities that support reading skills; links to Oxford reading schemes. Definitely worth a look.

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading/>

#### WORDS FOR LIFE

This site has lots of tips to get children reading; fun stuff to do; book recommendations; ideas for all ages up to end of KS2. Excellent site.

If you are concerned about your child's reading or would like some further help and advice, please see your child's class teacher - we are always happy to help!