

Reading at St Nicholas

Key Stage 1

For children who are continuing to access the **Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics programme**, home reading books are carefully matched to the sounds and words that children have been taught in their current phonics group.

Each week, children take home a book that is closely matched to their current stage of phonics. This means that children can practise the sounds and words they have already learned and experience success when reading independently.

The book will have been **read and practised in school**, allowing children to develop their decoding accuracy, confidence and fluency before sharing the book at home. When reading at home, we encourage children to reread the book to develop **fluency, expression and intonation**.

Children may also take home additional reading books to encourage **reading for pleasure and shared reading with family members**. Together, these books provide opportunities for children to practise their phonics, build fluency and develop a positive love of reading.

How families can support at home

We encourage parents and carers to:

- Listen to your child read their RWI book regularly.
- Encourage your child to use their **phonic knowledge to decode unfamiliar words**.
- Celebrate their success and confidence as they become more fluent.
- Talk about the story and characters to develop understanding and enjoyment.
- Encourage rereading, as this helps children to develop **accuracy, fluency and expression**.

Our aim is for every child to become a **confident, fluent and enthusiastic reader**, with strong phonics knowledge providing the foundations for lifelong reading.

Key Stage 2

At St Nicholas Catholic Primary School, we want every child to develop into a **confident, fluent reader who loves reading**. Once children have completed the Read Write Inc. programme, we use our reading assessments to help them choose books that are appropriately challenging while still allowing them to explore their own interests.

How do we choose the right books?

Children who have moved beyond Read Write Inc. have their reading fluency assessed using the **Salford Reading Test**. This assessment gives us a reading age, which is then used to identify an appropriate **Lexile range** for each child.

A Lexile range helps us to identify books that are suitably challenging for each child – not too difficult and not too easy. This supports the development of vocabulary, comprehension, confidence and reading fluency.

Choosing a book

Children can choose their take-home reading book from a range of school reading spaces, including:

- Their **class library**
- **Reading nooks and reading spaces**
- The **school Lending Library**

Our class libraries are organised by Lexile range so that children can make **independent choices within their reading range**. Children are encouraged to explore different genres, authors and types of books and to develop their own reading preferences.

Reading for pleasure

Although books are matched to a child's Lexile range to support appropriate challenge, **reading should also be enjoyable**. We want children to develop a lifelong love of books and to discover authors, genres and stories that interest them.

Children are encouraged to talk about the books they are reading, recommend books to others and explore a wide range of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics and graphic novels. Our approach aims to combine **appropriate challenge with choice, enjoyment and independence**.