

Reading for Enjoyment

One of the best gifts you can give to your child is to show them the joy of reading. But remember, you cannot force a child to read for enjoyment - you can only encourage them.

- ❖ Be a role model. Children learn from copying others, so let them see **you** read.
- ❖ Read **to** your child. They are never too old! Twenty minutes sharing a book works wonders.
- ❖ Let them stay up later. Allow them 10/20 minutes extra to read by themselves in bed. If they play instead, turn out the light. They will soon learn that this special time is for reading only and will develop a lifelong habit of reading for pleasure.
- ❖ Offer them a variety of texts. Different children will enjoy different texts. Children need to be allowed to choose what to read but should be encouraged to try other materials, such as non-fiction or magazines.
- ❖ Give books/book tokens Show your child that books are as important as toys and clothes on birthdays and at Christmas.
- ❖ Join the library. It's free!

Core Reading



A Guide for Parents

P.4-7

September 2014

In our Curriculum at St. Ronan's we aim to develop successful learners. Key to being a successful learner is good literacy and reading. We want our pupils to be really good, motivated readers. We aim to work with parents to best support children on this journey.

This leaflet is intended to describe how we use books, including novels, in P.4-7 to teach reading. Short novels will generally start to be used in P.4 for most children.

In School P.4 - P.7

We aim to give the children at least three sessions per week of quality teaching of reading.

Your child will be consolidating and improving their skills during these group reading sessions. These sessions will encourage development in **reading for fluency, comprehension, reading aloud and with expression, prediction and word meanings**. We also focus at different times on core reading strategies: **skimming, scanning, predicting, inferring, determining importance, comparing, connecting, summarising, paraphrasing, creating images, synthesising and self questioning**

They will also be looking at the **author's craft** such as **style, character analysis and settings** and using this to help improve their imaginative and personal writing. They will be tackling follow up activities based on the text and will be practising their punctuation, grammar and spelling.

Although the children will continue to work individually and as a whole class, there will be a much greater emphasis on collaborative learning, where the pupils work in groups, pairs and trios.

At Home

As pupils move through P.4-7 they are likely to bring home group reading books less and less.

Research has shown that by this age, children need to have **a choice** in what is read at home, how much is read and when and where reading takes place. Otherwise there is a danger that they may simply lose the pleasure in reading and, in turn, the motivation to become a better reader.

However, pupils *will* be bringing home separate books that they have chosen themselves. These will be at a similar reading level as work done in class but are to be read simply for enjoyment. We are asking your help in encourage your child to do this. Your child will:

- Borrow a book from school
- Read in their own time at home
- Record the title of the book and date started/completed in Homework Diary (special pages at back)
- Give the book a mark out of 10

Please also see the back page of the booklet for some other ideas. There will also be time in class to read and discuss this book (e.g. 'book club') as well as the option of various tasks (e.g. book report/review) to take away and complete if the pupil would like to do this.

Some pupils will require ongoing home practise in reading and will continue to do so. The above reading sessions will be in addition to their usual routine and they are likely to bring group 'reading book' home.