



## How we teach children to read here at St Monica's.

**Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible. We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read and this is encouraged from as soon as children enter our Nursery.**

### **How will my child be taught to read?**



We start by teaching phonics following the 'Read, Write Inc' programme. This means that they learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters. Ask them to show you what these are. Further information can be found in the **Phonics** section.

The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call 'tricky words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where'.

The children have daily phonic sessions which are streamed across Year 1 and 2. This means they work with other children who are at a similar level in phonic skills. Children are regularly assessed to ensure rapid progress through the scheme.

Children take part in guided reading sessions throughout the week and this enables them to consolidate their phonic skills, develop comprehension skills ensuring that they can not only decode the text but understand what they are reading. They will bring books home to read

with you each week. The children read fiction and non-fiction books from a range of reading schemes including Read, Write Inc, Oxford Reading Tree, Collins Big Cat, Project X, PM storybooks and real books from well known authors.

The teachers read to the children too, so the children are very familiar with a range of stories, poetry and information books. They learn many more words this way and it also helps their writing.

### How will I know how well my child is doing?



We will always let you know how well your child is doing. We use various ways to find out how the children are getting on in reading including observing and questioning children in guided reading sessions, phonic assessments and reading comprehension tests. We use the information to decide what reading group they should be in. Your child will work with children who are at the same reading level as him or her. Children will move to a different group if they are making faster progress than the others. Your child will have one-to-one support if we think he or she needs some extra help to keep up. We encourage parents to record their comments when reading with children at home in the reading comment book.

In the summer term, the government asks us to do a phonics check of all the Year 1 children. That gives us extra information about their progress. We will talk to you about how well your child has done and you will receive a written report from this test at the end of the year. Further information about the Phonic screening test can be found in the **Phonics** section.

### How long will it take to learn to read well?



By the end of Year 1 children should be able to read aloud books at the expected level for his or her age. They should be developing a good understanding of what they have read and be able to talk about the key points. Your child's teacher will inform you as to whether your child is reading at the expected level.

**What can I do to help? Is there anything that I shouldn't do?**



A meeting is held with parents in the Summer term before your child moves into Year 1 to explain how the curriculum is arranged and how you can support your child further at home. Please come and support your child. We would very much like you to know how to help.

Your child will bring different sorts of books home from school. It helps if you know whether this is a book that your child can read on their own or whether this is a book that you should read *to* them. The teacher will have explained which is which.

Help your child to sound out the letters in words and then to 'push' the sounds together to make a whole word. Try not to refer to the letters by their names. Help your child to focus on the sounds. You can hear how to say the sounds correctly at this link:

<http://www.ruthmiskintraining.com/teacher-support/61/index.html>

Sometimes your child might bring home a picture book that they know well. Please don't say, 'This is too easy.' Instead, encourage your child to tell you the story out loud; ask them questions about things that happen or what they think about some of the characters in the story.

We know parents and carers are very busy people. But if you can find time to read to your child as much as possible, it helps him or her to learn about books and stories. They also learn new words and what they mean. Show that you are interested in reading yourself and talk about reading as a family. You can find out about good stories to read to your child here:

<https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

**What if he or she finds it difficult to learn to read?**



We want children to learn to read, however long it takes us to teach them. We will find out very quickly if your child is finding reading difficult and extra reading support will be provided. This will be discussed with you along with ways in which you can offer further support at home.

Some children take a bit longer to learn to put sounds together to read a word, e.g. c-a-t to make the word 'cat'. At our meeting, we will explain how you can help your child to do this.

**What if my child turns out to be dyslexic?**



The way we teach reading is especially helpful for children who might be dyslexic. This is because we use a very well-organised programme that has a strong focus on phonics. This is very important for children who find learning to read difficult. If you are worried about your child, please come and talk to us.

**My child has difficulty pronouncing some sounds. Will this stop him learning to read through phonics?**



This isn't a problem for learning to read as long as we know what sound the child is trying to say. This is not something to worry about. Many children have a few sounds that they can hear clearly but find it difficult to say, particularly the l-sound, r-sound, w-sound, th-sound, s-sound, sh-sound and j-sound. Often they say a t-sound for the c-sound; "tttssh" for the s-sound; "w" for the r-sound and "r" for the l-sound.

You can help your child by encouraging him or her to look at your mouth when you say the sound. Whatever you do, do not make your child feel a failure. They can easily learn to read, even if they find one or two sounds difficult to say. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns. We are here to help.