

The Value of Reading

During Year 6, we want to encourage children to read as often and as widely as possible. Research tells us that children who read for just half an hour a day can be up to a year ahead of those who don't: Reading is a vital skill!

At St. Mark's we want to encourage every child to read more often, to read more widely; to find something to love about reading.

There are lots of things that families can do together to support the improvement of reading ability and enjoyment – and not all of them require a book!

Talk as a family about reading

By Year 6 most students are competent readers and are less likely to want to read aloud to an adult. This skill still needs to be nurtured and parents have a part to play in this. It means that discussion can take place about the book and relevant questions can be asked and talked over. These higher order thinking skills are; the skills of inference; deducing the meaning from what is hinted at and understanding the reasoning about why an author has made certain decisions.

Share a book

Sometimes your child may be reading a book for pleasure, why not both read the same book? Young Adult fiction is excellent and well worth a read as a parent. Sharing a book in this way will encourage your child to talk about the book and you can share opinions and challenge their thinking.

Model what it is to be a reader

Many parents will read, whether it be fiction, newspapers, online or in any other context. Get in the habit of being seen to read, and valuing reading - that means dads too!

Join the library - and visit!

Library membership is free, and Worsley library is just a short walk from school. Make to choose books and encourage your child to read a title they might not usually choose because it's free opens up a whole range of reading opportunities!

What should we read?!

Fiction books aren't the only sort of reading material that will help your child improve their reading ability.



Newspapers



Web sites



Non-fiction



Magazines



Graphic Novels



Audio books

SATs Information!

In the SATs, questions which ask the children to pick out facts or details can be a quick way of picking up several vital marks, so it's important that they do them well.

Firstly, they need to read the text really carefully, at least once. It is a fine balance between reading quickly in the time they have, but slowly enough so that they can take in and understand the information. As with everything, the more they practise the better they'll get at it!

Next, they move on and read the question a couple of times to make sure they understand exactly what it is asking them. **Lots of people lose marks by half-reading the question and doing what THEY think it says, not what's actually on the page! This is important for all of the tests, not just the reading paper.**

There are lots of different reading skills – not just reading what's on the page! Consider which ones your child is confident with and which ones they need to work on.

AF2 Use **skimming and scanning** skills to home-in on the information, and write it down.

AF3 Inference and deduction – think logically about what a text / author actually means.

AF4 Organisation – think about how the text is set out and why. What features does it have? What text-type is it?

AF5 Language and words – what vocabulary/phrases has the author used and why?

AF6 Impact – what was the purpose of the text? Why did the author write it in the first place? Was it meant to persuade you? Was it meant to scare you?

Also: what did **you** think about the text and **why**? You can't be wrong with this part – as long as you back up your opinions with evidence from the text.

AF7 Making links - does the text make you think of anything else? Does it remind you of other stories? It is set somewhere you've been to? Is it about something that you already know a lot about? Try to use any other knowledge that you may have.

Also encourage your child to remember to get plenty of detail into their answers – some questions are worth up to 3 marks! Get them to practice trying to answer fully and then to look for other examples so they get full marks.

You can download past SATS papers for FREE from:

<http://emaths.co.uk/KS2SAT.htm>

<http://www.sats-papers.co.uk/sats-papers-ks2.php>