

## St Charles' Catholic Primary School

### How to help your Child with Reading in the Foundation Class

Reading should always be regarded as a pleasure. It is **always** valuable to make some time at home to read a story with your child in order to suggest to the child that it is not a task but a pleasure.

There is much to be said for the same story being re-read, talking about the story, and making comments about the characters and incidents is most valuable.

When your child brings a book home from school, it is for you to encourage him/her to enjoy reading, discuss the sequence of events and practise word recognition.

Try to choose a relaxing time for you as well as your child. It helps to be consistent as repetition is 'the key' and a **daily** read essential, but the effort should not be forced. In any event great patience is often required when helping a child to read.

Encourage your child to use the 'picture clues' on each page to guess at what the words might say. Encourage him/her to look at the first **sound** in each word as a prompt (and subsequently, as their phonic skills develop, the series of sounds in a word eg c - a - t).

If your child can't work out what the word says, tell them, and carry on.

Understanding the text is the essence of reading so always check for comprehension, and perhaps ask your child what might happen next in the story. When your child becomes more confident and builds up a bank of sight vocabulary, it is useful to encourage some expression in reading, by reading the text to your child first so that he/she can hear the intonation in your voice.

A reading record book is provided for each child. This is in the form of a little notebook in which are written dated comments by teacher and parent. These comments by the teacher are a guide to what the child might do next, with the help of a parent, to consolidate skills which require practice. It may suggest reading approach techniques to follow

that are appropriate at a certain stage or even suggestions for little games that can be played at home to help support the child's reading eg 'lotto'.

Your comments as parents might be whether the child enjoyed the book, how they coped with the vocabulary or any particular problems the child may have met. This helps the teacher to assess your child's progress more accurately.

Please bear in mind that children progress at very different rates. It does not matter to us as teachers that the children compete with each other to get on the next book or level. We prefer that children progress satisfactorily at their own rate and continue to enjoy reading.

Visits to the library and reading comics, supermarket labels, signs around etc are opportunities for children to become readers.

### **Remember Do Not**

- make learning to read an anxious experience
- assume that it will happen 'overnight'
- compare your child's progress with others
- teach alphabet letters (the **sound** of the letter is more useful) at first

### **Do Try**

- to make reading a daily activity
- do make reading a rewarding activity by giving lots of praise
- to make reading a joy and a pleasure

**It is the key** to learning.