



Birmingham City Council Education Department
St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher
 Mrs. D. Linley



11th October 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

The Importance of Reading at St. Mark's

Firstly, thank you to those of you who have supported your children this week in developing their vocabulary with the 'Word of the week' stickers in planners. I have been impressed with some of the words that the children have learnt through their reading. Thank you for your support.

As you know, reading is a major life skill and research tells us that children who read aloud, have more confidence in reading, better fluency and expression compared to children who do not read aloud.

I understand that as parents you lead busy lives but hearing your child read aloud each night is fundamental to their reading development and their educational development because it is an important life skill. We know that many of you hear your child read aloud regularly but we would like to **know more about your child's reading at home**. We would like you to comment on either your child's fluency, word development or understanding (comprehension) of the text.

Here is some information to support you to do this.

Reading focus	What you should be looking for:	Why this is important:
Fluency	How well is your child able to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression?	Children may have difficulty with decoding skills or they may just need more practice with speed and smoothness in reading (they will often start/stop when reading if they lack fluency). Fluency is important for motivation; children who find reading laborious tend not to want to read!
Word Development	How well children decode and learn new words. Can children pronounce the word correctly? Does your child understand the definition of the word?	Children will often read over difficult words and not grasp a full understanding of new/unfamiliar words. In order for children to develop a rich vocabulary that they can use in their everyday conversations, they must learn and practise reading and exploring sophisticated words. No word is too sophisticated to learn!
Comprehension	How well your child understands what they are reading. Whether it is fiction or non-fiction, your child should be able to recall and explain what the book is about.	It is through reading that we can access a wealth of information in society. Reading develops our minds as what we learn is stored in our brains and it develops our language and communication skills. Poor reading and comprehension skills increases the amount of time it takes to absorb information. A person is limited in what they can accomplish without good reading and comprehension skills.

Lastly, an essential part of reading is making time to read for pleasure. Children can go into another world through books, whether they are fiction, non-fiction or poetry. Please don't make reading a chore – enjoy spending time reading together! I hope to see you at the Reading Presentation Meetings next week! (Monday 14th October at 3.30pm for Key Stage 1 and 2 parents and Tuesday at 2.45pm for Reception parents).

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. D. Linley
 Headteacher

