

## Top Tips to remember!

1. Choose a quiet time to read together - 10 to 15 minutes each day is plenty.
2. Maintain the flow - if they make a mistake do not interrupt immediately. Let your child self-correct. Help out sometimes rather than sounding out every tricky word.
3. Visit the library, let your child see you reading.
4. Regular practice is important, and a little and often is best.
5. Variety is important - reading comics, newspapers, magazines, poems and non-fiction books is just as important.



## Don't Forget . . .

**Be positive** - don't keep saying "no, that's wrong" - boost your child's self-confidence, it will make such a difference.

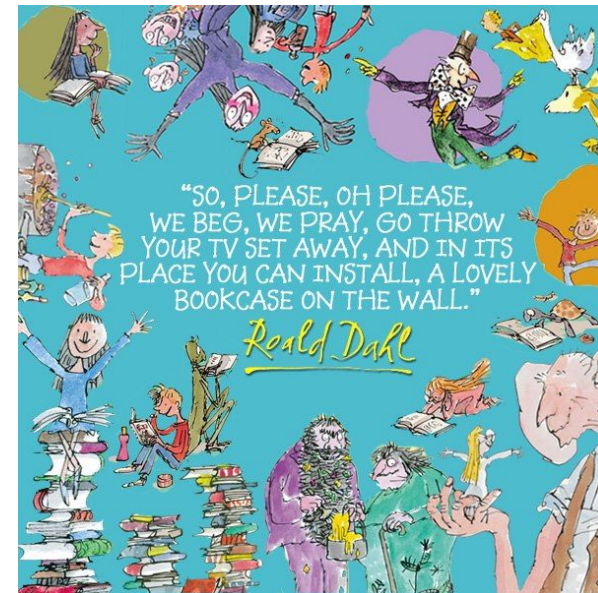
**Children learn best when they have fun** - don't make reading a chore.

**Success is the key** - don't keep providing books that are too hard to read - re-read easier books and old favourites.



# St. Martin's Primary School

## Helping Your Child To Read



## Reading With Your Child.

Reading with your child is one of the most valuable things you can do to help them progress and enjoy reading. Sharing stories with a grown-up will teach them new words and encourage them to become better readers.

**Reading aloud to young children is the best way to get them interested in reading. Before long they will grow to love stories and books. Eventually they will want to read on their own.**



Children develop their reading skills in different ways. Some may want to get every word exactly right, other children will race to the end of a story while some may read hesitantly. Try to respond to your child's needs and let them read at their own pace.

If they get stuck, get them to have a go at sounding out the letters and 'blending' all the sounds together to make a word. If the word has too many sounds in it that they don't yet know, just tell them the word and carry on reading. It's important to talk about the pictures and what's happening in the story, to check that they understand it and to share ideas about what might happen next. This will all add to their enjoyment and their success.

Reading can be a family activity. Spending time with word games, stories, and books will help your child to:

- gather information and learn about the world;
- learn how stories and books work - that they have beginnings, endings, characters and themes;
- build a rich vocabulary by reading and talking about new words;
- learn how to listen and how to think;
- learn the sounds of language and language patterns;
- fall in love with books!

Here are some ways to help your child acquire the skills in comprehension and reasoning they need to become fluent readers.

- ❑ Ask your child about the kind of books they would like to read.
- ❑ Talk about your favourite book and read it together.
- ❑ Encourage your child to ask questions when they read and talk about the story and pictures.
- ❑ Look at the cover - predict what the story is about! What might happen inside?

**Try and read the story again a few days later, after your child has had chance to think about the story.**



### **Talk About Books.**

Talking about the books you read is just as important as reading them. Discussing a story or a book with your child helps them understand it and connect it to his or her own experience of life. It also helps enrich your child's vocabulary with new words and phrases.