



ST ALPHEGE CE INFANT SCHOOL

Executive Head: Mrs Liz Thomas-Friend, Head of School: Mrs Jacqui Spinks,
Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DA, TEL: 01227 272977, Email: headteacher@st-alphege.kent.sch.uk

books and reading

At St. Alphege we are committed to fostering a love of reading and giving children a variety of opportunities to experience a wide range of texts. We understand the importance of achievement and building children's confidence in their skills as a reader. We will therefore be sending home one fully decodable focus text for an entire week. Your child will also be able to choose a reading book for pleasure from our reading areas which they can swap daily if they would like.

Reading in Reception:

The most important thing for children in Reception is to foster a love for reading and to experience joy from it. We understand life can be busy but please try to read with your child at home daily. We recommend 5-10 minutes every day. This can be achieved in a number of different ways, especially if you have a child who is a little reluctant to read! They can read the book to you (including making up the story using the pictures as prompts); you can each read a page and take turns, you could try reading the text together, or you can read the book to them. Talking about the story and using/explaining language within the book is hugely beneficial to children at this age. You could ask your child how they think the characters are feeling or what they think might happen next. All of this will help develop their understanding and enjoyment of the stories they read. When children hear adults read, they can hear the pace and expression that should be used when reading a story, and therefore can start to include this in their own reading. For this reason and to help create a love for stories, your child will have a dedicated story time in school every day.

Focus texts:

It is essential for children to feel the success of being able to read a book in order for them to gain confidence and learn to love reading. Fluency and expression when reading is developed and enhanced through practising sentences and phrases repeatedly. We will be sending home one focus text per week, which will be fully decodable for your child and will include some of the sounds and tricky words taught within their phonics session from the previous week. This means that they will be able to read at least 90% of the words without sounding them out. Initially, all children in Reception will be sent home books without any text in them. These books are an essential starting point in building children's language, communication and imagination skills.



St Alphege Values



Koinonia



Forgiveness



Trust



Kindness



Love



Joy

Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Encourage your child to look at the pictures and create their own story around these. This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to engage in a conversation around the story and a chance for you to introduce new vocabulary. Try to encourage them to “tell the story” rather than just saying what they can see in the pictures. We will send these books home on a Friday for you to keep for a week before returning to school and swapping for a new book. The books should be read repeatedly, which will encourage fluency of reading, the use of expression and allow your child to become confident with the words and sentences, giving them a sense of achievement and pride.

Enjoyment texts:

There will still be the opportunity for your child to choose a book from school, which will consist of a variety of texts including fiction and non-fiction books from our reading areas. These books are fantastic for shared reading or story time with your family.

Reluctant readers:

If your child is reluctant to read their school books at home with you, encourage them to read a book that they enjoy – even if this book is too tricky! You can take it in turns to read with your child, see if they can identify sounds they know or help them with some of the tricky words. Trying to read their own books, or even magazines or comics can also help encourage children. Making some special time to visit the library and choose new books can also help. Even if you incorporate reading into their tablet or computer time, it still counts as reading!

Questions about reading:

Any questions you have about reading in or outside of school, please speak to your child’s class teacher or email using the Year R address (yearr@st-alphege.kent.sch.uk). We will be glad to help!

Many thanks for your continued support,
Mrs Arnott & Mr Mead ☺