

## BOLD BEGINNINGS 2017 (DFE)

*In the schools that devoted considerable time and resources to letting children practise blending sounds into words, the children made the strongest progress in reading. Focused time during formal teaching, as well as an expectation that phonic **books would be read and practised at home**, gave children frequent opportunities to develop their fluency so that decoding of the words on the page became automatic – a critical foundation for independent reading.*



Daniel Wilingham  
*Why Don't's Students Like School?* (2009)

A child who starts behind in terms of knowledge will fall even further behind unless there is some intervention. There seems to be little doubt that this is a major factor in why some children fare poorly in school. Home environments vary a great deal. What sort of vocabulary do parents use? Do the parents ask the children questions and listen to the children's answers? Do they make books available to their children? Do children observe their parents reading? All of these factors likely play a role in what children know on the first day of school. In other words before a child meets her first teacher, she may be quite far behind the child sitting next to her in terms of how easy it is going to be for her to learn.



# Why daily reading is so important to your child's enjoyment of school.

St Felix  
Reading advice  
to families





## Reading Speed

Most adults read for pleasure at 238 words per minute (wpm) according to a recent review of research into reading speeds.\*

Reading speed has an impact on children too as the tests children sit at the end of Y2 and Y6 (SATs) are based on the assumption that children read at a certain rate. Y2: 90 wpm and Y6 130 wpm.

These tests are designed to be accessible within the time available if children read at the speeds above. This includes maths tests.

School expectations:

Y2 90 wpm (TAF)

Y3 100 wpm (internal target setting)

Y4 110 wpm (internal target setting)

Y5 120 wpm (internal target setting)

Y6 130 wpm (TAF)

Regular reading practice at home is essential for children to achieve these rates and be on track to meet the demands of high school where the wpm rate continues to increase to prepare students for further education and the world of work.

*\*Marc Brysbaert of Ghent University 2019*

## 8 reasons to read with your child

1. It helps your child's development

Charlotte Billington, Project Manager at the National Literacy Trust: "Many parents don't realise that reading with their child for just 10 minutes a day is enough to make a huge difference to their development."

2. It helps your child to develop social skills

Talking to young children while reading stories together helps to develop their social skills and reading aloud is a great way of encouraging two-way communication."

3. Reading introduces them to things they might not have heard about before

Reading can introduce your child to concepts they might otherwise be unfamiliar with and gives you the space to discuss them in a safe environment.

4. You can get them to be quiet

Sssh, we're reading.

5. Reading helps them to fall asleep

"The Rabbit Who Wants To Fall Asleep" became a best seller on Amazon after promising parents the holy grail of childcare - a quick and painless bedtime.

6. Reading helps reinforce what they are learning at school

**Research by the National Literacy Trust, showed that children who read daily outside school are five times more likely to read above the expected level for their age compared to children who never read outside class.**

7. It gives all family members an equal chance to bond

An Ipsos MORI poll revealed dads in the UK don't read enough to their children, with mothers being 50% more likely to read with their child at 0-11 months than fathers.

The Book Trust charity is now urging not only fathers, but all parents, grandparents and carers to make a promise to read to their children for at least ten minutes every day.

8. It gives parents and children time away from screens

And that has got to be a good thing for everyone.

Source: Huffington Post 2017

## ST FELIX SUGGESTS

Every child should read a book with an older better reader at home regularly.

This can be whenever and wherever works for your family.

Learning to read fluently and with understanding is a life skill. It significantly improves your child's chance of success at school and their enjoyment of learning.

Library/home books are just as important as school books.



*Reading for Pleasure supports learning*