



St Clare's Primary School, A Catholic Voluntary Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs J Beer

Monday 16th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Teaching of Reading and Reading Books

I am writing to let you know of some changes we are making with regards to the teaching of reading at St Clare's and the books that children will be bringing home.

- Until they have learnt their sounds, EYFS will bring home a repetitive reading book to learn the mechanics of reading: page turning, following the direction of text etc. They will then, along with Year 1 children bring home a book which only contains the sounds they have been taught. When in the early stages of learning to read, children need to read a book over and over again to develop fluency and these books are perfect for this. This book should be kept in the children's book bag. EYFS children will also bring home a book to share. This is a book for parents and carers to read to their children and talk about.
- Once children have mastered all of their sounds, they will move onto book bands. These are colour-coded books which will be used all the way up to Year 6 – we even have black banded books which are Year 7 level to challenge our best readers. These books range from short, non-fiction texts to thick novels, covering a broad range of topics, authors, genres and settings. Something for everyone!
- In order to identify which book band a child should be reading, they will undergo an assessment called benchmarking. This consists of the child reading a passage and then answering questions about what they have read. A child can only move up a book band when they can both read it fluently and answer all of the questions about it.
- For those children in KS2 who find reading tricky, we have bought some books which appeal to older readers, but are easier to read. The aim is to do everything we can to get these children to catch up to age expectations.

These changes are going to be rolled out over the coming weeks, so look out for your child bringing home the new books!

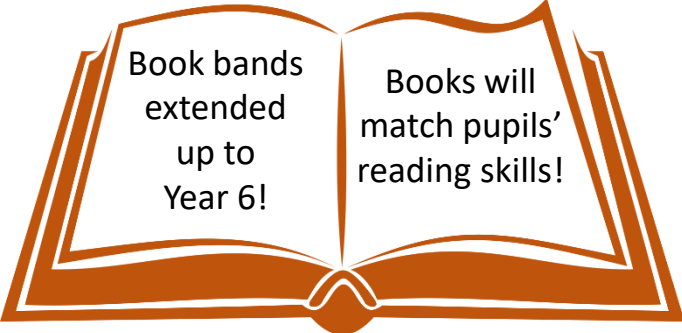
With kind regards,

Mrs Beer




We're revamping reading!

Here at St Clare's, we know how important it is for children to enjoy reading. Reading underpins learning across all curriculum areas and is a vital life skill. Therefore, we are making some changes to improve reading at the school.



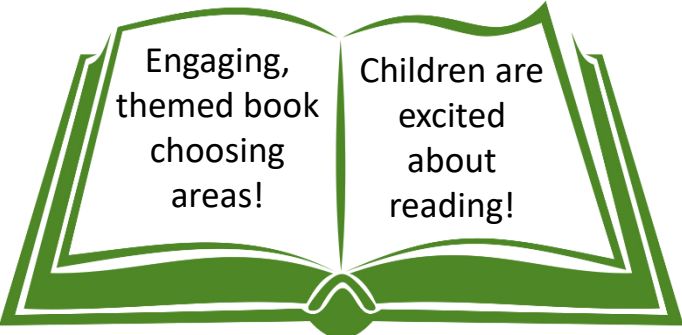
Book bands
extended
up to
Year 6!

Books will
match pupils'
reading skills!



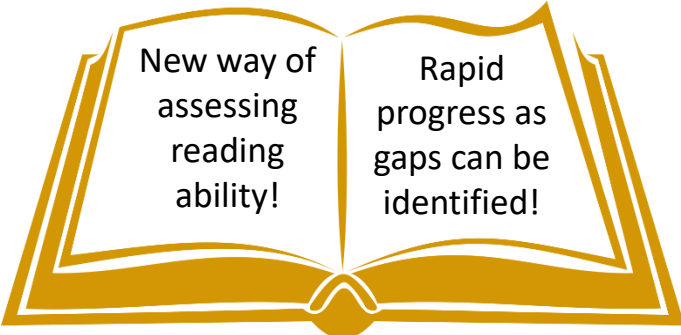
New books
for all year
groups!

We have
books that
children want
to read!



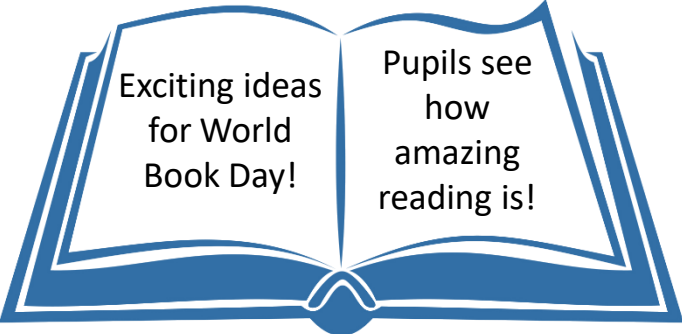
Engaging,
themed book
choosing
areas!

Children are
excited
about
reading!



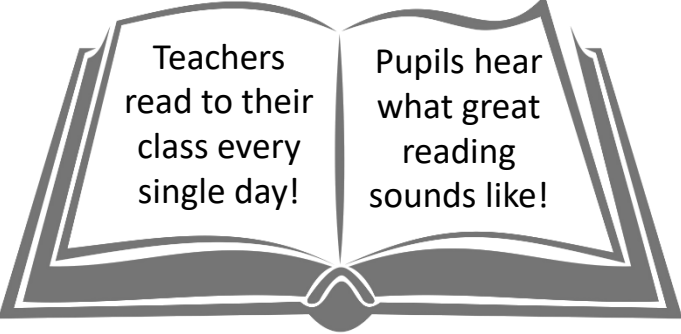
New way of
assessing
reading
ability!

Rapid
progress as
gaps can be
identified!



Exciting ideas
for World
Book Day!

Pupils see
how
amazing
reading is!



Teachers
read to their
class every
single day!

Pupils hear
what great
reading
sounds like!

