

Reading at Home:

A Guide for Parents and Carers



At St Nicholas we believe that reading is far more than saying the words on a page. It's about curiosity, imagination and the joy of sharing stories together. You can read all about how we teach reading on our website, [HERE](#).

When children read regularly at home, even for a short time, it makes a huge difference to their confidence and progress. Thank you for everything you do to support your child's reading journey.

Reading at Home: What Helps Most

A **short daily session** of 10–15 minutes is ideal, but little and often can be great too! Reading can take many forms. It might include reading your child's Rhino Reader book in the Rhino Reader virtual library, reading your child's school book or mini-book, sharing a library book or enjoying a favourite book from home. It can be your child reading or you reading to your child.

Access our **virtual library**, which includes the same book your child is reading in school.

Turn on subtitles when watching television. Seeing the words helps children link spoken and written language.

Be a **Reading Role Model**. Let your child see you reading books, recipes, magazines or anything you enjoy.

Create and Explore. Use stories as a springboard for drawing, acting, building or writing inspired by the book.

Read the weekly '**Mini Book**' to help your child consolidate their phonics learning.

Talk about the story. Questions help children understand what they read. Ask: What do you think this story is about? Why did that happen? What might happen next? Which part did you like best and why?

Go Online (carefully) Look for age-appropriate word games or e-books. The Rhino Readers app is the best place to start.

Share and enjoy your child's **library book**. Read them aloud, talk about the pictures and follow your child's interests.

Play simple reading games such as "I spy" using sounds or pictures. Spotting tricky words. Finding things beginning with a chosen sound. Matching words to pictures.

Read signs when you're out and about. They often introduce new words to talk about. Recipes or simple instructions are also great for practising careful reading.

Frequently Asked Questions

How often should we read at home?

Ideally every day. This can include any of the activities above.

How long should we spend reading?

Around 10–15 minutes is perfect but don't worry if it's shorter and remember, you can be the reader too!

How do we let school know how reading is going?

Write in your child's reading diary, email the class teacher or speak to them at drop-off or pick-up.

What should I do if my child gets stuck

Help them with the first sound.

Encourage them to blend the sounds together.

Let them read on and use the context.

Pause to give them thinking time.

Praise their effort, even if they don't get it quite right.

Useful Links

- Rhino Readers App – Available on the App Store and Google Play
- [Phonics Play](#) – Free phonics games to support early reading
- [Oxford Owl](#) – A free virtual library (you'll need to sign in)
- [Teach Your Monster to Read](#) – Fun games that help children practise early reading skills
- [CBeebies Reading Activities](#) – Games and videos that support early reading skills