



Early Years Reading Spine at St. Benet's

“Reading frequently to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts, will give children the opportunity to thrive.” EYFS Framework 2021

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) team at St. Benet's have compiled a bespoke range of core texts that have been carefully selected to reflect their passion and enthusiasm for sharing books. We are all keen readers and we want to encourage a life-long love of reading!

This starts off as a small range of simple, high-quality texts written by various authors, which increase in complexity as children's comprehension skills develop.

Fiction:

The EYFS team will share the texts repeatedly during whole-class story sessions and make them available in our reading areas for children to access and read independently. We will also encourage the children to take these books home to share their love of reading with their adults.

Non-fiction:

Although we don't specify which non-fiction books we will use within our book spine, non-fiction is incorporated into the Early Years unit, both indoors and out for children to access as they play in different areas of the learning environment, for example, recipe books in the role play area for children to copy the pictures to make imaginary cakes. For all curriculum areas, we use non-fiction as well as internet research to make our learning “sticky” as this allows our children to learn new facts. Newspapers and internet articles are used as they arise throughout the year that take account children's interests and raises awareness of topical events and current affairs.

Poetry and Rhymes:

Children are exposed to a widening range of rhyme and poems with increasing complexity during their time in Early Years. In addition to the books listed, we also use a range of genres that follow children's changing interests, for example, children are encouraged to bring in their favourite books from home and we regularly visit our school library to ensure that books follow up our “Wow” moments from class.

“Listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster children's understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world.” EYFS Framework 2021

