



Birchley St Mary's
Parent Workshop

Reading in Key Stage 2

Tuesday 29th September 2026



HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A pupil who reads

20:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
1.8 MILLION
words per year
and scores in
90th PERCENTILE
on standardised tests

A pupil who reads

5:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
282,000
words per year
and scores in
50th PERCENTILE
on standardised tests

A pupil who reads

1:00

minute per day

will be exposed to
8,000
words per year
and scores in
10th PERCENTILE
on standardised tests

THE READING PICTURE

How have children's habits changed?

UK children aged 8-11

Reading for enjoyment

Children who enjoyed reading in their free time

2016
77.6%

2026
47.7%

↓ **29.9**
percentage points

Reading every day

Children who read something daily in their free time

2016
46.3%

2026
31.9%

↓ **14.4**
percentage points

A small rise in 2026

Enjoyment: 46.9% in 2025 → 47.7% in 2026

Daily reading: 31.1% in 2025 → 31.9% in 2026

Aims of this workshop:

- To raise awareness of the importance of the home/school partnership
- To provide you with some information about how we teach and assess reading in Key Stage 2
- To share with you the reading expectations in each class
- To give you tips on helping your child with their reading journey



How is reading in Key Stage 2 different to Key Stage 1?

- In Key Stage 1, the focus is on learning to read words, increasing fluency and developing expression.
- In Key Stage 2, the focus is on developing reading for meaning, looking beyond the text, making inferences, skimming and scanning techniques, empathising with characters and evaluating texts.



Reading in KS2

Texts become increasingly longer and more complex, with a focus on vocabulary

Stamina is key – pupils are expected to get through 3 or 4 texts in a comprehension test and answer questions based on these within an hour





Our Reading Programme

- Class Book selection
- School Library
- Home Readers
- Guided Reading
- Literacy/ Comprehension Skill Lessons
- Comprehension Assessments





Class Library



All classes have a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books. Children are given the opportunity to read these throughout the week, for pleasure



KS2 Library

Children have access to a range of other books in our school library and have allocated times/days to choose.



Guided Reading



- Children are heard to read at least once a week in whole class reading.
- Some classes in Upper Key Stage 2 take part in whole class guided reading 4 times a week.
- Children read a variety of texts, as well as class topic novels, and answer targeted questions from the National Curriculum, based on what they've read.



Reading Comprehension Lessons

Children participate in a weekly comprehension lesson- these focused sessions allow us to assess your child's reading and progress in different skill areas.

Texts cover a range of genres.



Reading Comprehension – Assessments

Children in each class complete a termly Reading Comprehension Assessment.

We use the NFER assessment booklets.

There are 3-4 different genre texts in each, with accompanying questions for each.

Pupils are given 1 hour to complete these and are given a score out of 40 or 50 (class dependent).



Reading Comprehension – Assessments (continued)

In line with the new curriculum, children's reading and comprehension skills will be judged to be:

- Working below national expectations
- Just within national expectations
- Securely within national expectations
- At a greater depth of understanding.



Home Readers

All classes check and reissue/change home readers weekly.

In Key Stage 2, we are aware that some home readers are thicker and will therefore take longer to read.

2 We recommend reading for 20 minutes at least 3 times a week.



Home Readers continued...

It is important that your child's book is in school on the morning they are due to be changed as there is no other available time during the week for them to be changed.

The reading record (yellow) book must be signed every week by an adult –if your child has not finished the book, they are able to keep it for another week so simply record the pages read but still return the book to school.

Book Reviews will be completed in school regularly, and in line with the National Curriculum- to check children understand and retain what they are reading.



What can you do to help?



- In Key Stage 2 it appears that children's reading progress tends to slow down – not true!
- **Home readers** are a vital part of your child's reading development. Children are expected to access a wide variety of age-appropriate books- even if they aren't interested in the genre they are given, it helps prepare them for future reading.



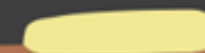
What can you do to help?



- We always encourage parents to read with or listen to their child read, at any age (even if you know they are a fluent reader).
- This can be their home reader, but also a book they may want to read for pleasure in addition to their school home reader.

According to 'The Reading Agency', only 46.9% of pupils aged 7-11 years enjoy free-reading at home.

This enjoyment goes up to 76% when children read to or with an adult.



Inference	
Inference can be thought of as any step in logic that allows someone to reach a conclusion based on evidence or reasoning. In reading comprehension, this means using what you already know as well as what you can see in the text to come to a conclusion.	Why does this character do this?
For example, the text might state:	What does this action or description tell us about this character?
Sally shivered and put on her coat.	Why is this character/setting/object described in this way?
From this statement, we can infer that Sally is cold. The text hasn't explicitly stated that this is the case but it can be inferred.	How do you know that this is true?
	What evidence is there to support this?

Prediction	Questions to Develop Prediction Skills
Prediction involves making a logical and reasonable guess about what might happen next. Your child will need to understand what they have read in order to use contextual clues to make a sensible prediction.	What do you think is likely to happen with ___?
	Why do you think ___?

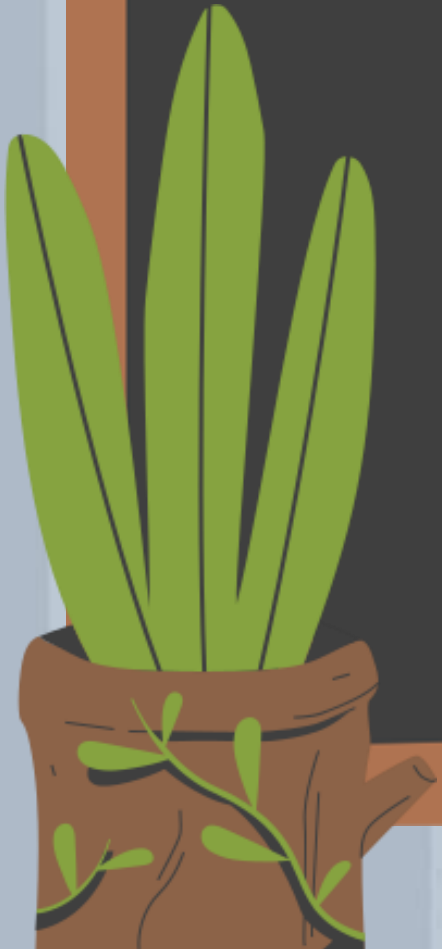
Types of questions you can ask your child...



Some examples of these questions are in the guide booklets on your tables



Sample reading comprehensions



An illustration of a classroom scene. A female teacher with long dark hair, wearing a blue blazer over a red top and light pink pants, stands on the right side of the frame. She holds a blue pointer stick in her right hand, pointing towards a large green chalkboard with a yellow border. The chalkboard has the text "Any questions?" written on it in a white, rounded font. To the left of the chalkboard, there is a small framed picture of a world map on the wall. Below the map, a stack of three books (blue, yellow, and green) sits on a blue desk. In the foreground, the top of a brown desk is visible, with three colored blocks (orange, teal, and yellow) on it. The background is a dark grey wall with vertical lines.

Any
questions?

**Thank
you!**

