

St Michael with St Thomas
CE Primary School



Learn, Achieve, Love, Believe

Reception Class
Handbook
2021 -2022

You will find the following information in the Reception handbook:

- Details of the adults that will be working with your child this year
- Our Christian Vision and Values
- Details of homework
- Information about reading in this year group
- Details about PE days and swimming (if applicable to the year group)
- Times of the school day
- Dates of class worships and family learning sessions
- Long Term Plan for the year
- Maths and Grammar guidance for parents
- A copy of the Home – School agreement to sign

Staff working in Reception this year:

Class teacher: Mrs Fisher

Teaching Assistant: Miss Arnold

Our Christian Vision and Christian Values

Learn, Achieve, Love, Believe

“Faith can move mountains,”

Matthew 17:20

Our Christian faith is at the heart of our community and the words of our vision have been chosen as they truly encapsulate our aspirations for the children’s spiritual, moral, social and academic lives.

- **Learn** – To **learn** about the world and ourselves through our bespoke and ambitious curriculum.
- **Achieve** – Recognising and celebrating all **achievements**, whether in the classroom or out.
- **Love** – Showing a **love** of learning, each other and God through our behaviour, attitudes and actions.
- **Believe** – **Believing** in ourselves and God and living our Christian Values every day.

Our chosen Bible passage links closely with our Christian Value of perseverance, but also our vision that we instil within our school that together and with our faith in God, we can overcome any obstacles in our way to achieve our vision of Learn, Achieve, Love, Believe.

We have six Christian Values that we focus on detail on during each of our six half-terms over the year. Our Values represent how we live out our day to day lives while striving towards our vision of ***Learn, Achieve, Love, Believe***:

- Perseverance
- Thankfulness
- Friendship
- Forgiveness
- Trust
- Hope

Homework

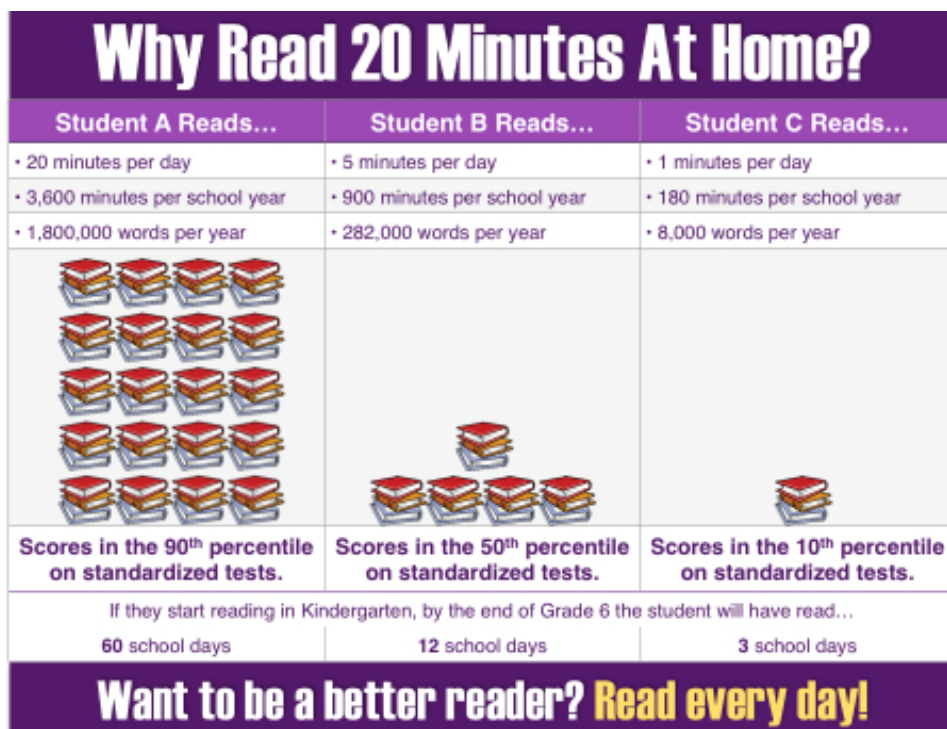
Homework will be sent on each **Thursday** and will be collected in each **Tuesday**.

Homework will consist of activities that cover all areas of learning. Pupils may be given a project to complete over a longer period of time to support work in their topics. Spellings will be tested on a half termly basis and the results will be sent home.

Reading

We ask that all children read at least 5 times each week at home. This is to support them with:

- Becoming more fluent with their reading
- Developing reading stamina, allowing them to read longer and more challenging texts
- Developing the speed in which they are able to read and comprehend at
- Developing Vocabulary
- Developing a love of books



Reading in Early Years and KS1

In Reception and KS1, pupils are no longer reading by 'Book Band'. Instead, children will have a reading book that is matched to the phonics sounds that they are learning in their groups. This is to ensure that they have time to practise and rehearse the learning taking place in the classroom. Children will be reassessed in their phonics groups each half term. These books are to be read often as children build fluency through reading known texts. They will be changed twice a week.

Children will also bring home a second book, which is a sharing book. This book is for adults to read with their child to build a love of books, enjoying the story, discussing the language, characters and plot. This book is not for adults to try and make children read, as this will contain sounds that they have not yet been taught through phonics. These books will be changed twice a week, but children can also change these books whenever they are ready to from the class library.

In addition to their home reading books, pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have access to Reading Eggs which is an online school subscription to improve pupils' reading speed, comprehension and understanding of vocabulary. Pupils will complete an initial assessment in school and will then receive their log in

details. Pupils are expected to complete 3 Reading lessons via Reading Eggs each week. This, coupled with reading at least five times per week at home, would mean that the child had met their home reading target for the week.

Reading in KS2

Once children have finished the Read Write Inc Phonics programme at the end of KS1, they will be assessed in their reading using the KS2 book bands.

Children will be given a book that matches their reading level to read each night at home. Pupils will still be expected to read at least 5 times each week, although as they get older, they may read independently at some points throughout the week. All children who meet this home reading target, will receive Dojo points and an extra break time as a reward.

Studies have shown that reading progress in KS2 often slows, as parents believe that now pupils can read competently, there is less need for them to read aloud with an adult. This is a misconception and it is essential that pupils still have time to read aloud and to discuss texts with someone, especially as the books they are reading are becoming more and more challenging. Please support your child by listening to them read regularly and discussing the text with them.

Pupils in KS2 will be assessed each term and the book band that they are reading at may change. However, this is based on more than just the ability to read the words, and the pupil's comprehension of the text is equally important. Pupils who read widely and from a variety of different types of texts, will develop their reading and comprehension skills far more efficiently.

In addition to their home reading books, pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have access to Reading Plus which is an online school subscription to improve pupils' reading speed, comprehension and understanding of vocabulary. Pupils will complete an initial assessment in school and will then receive their log in details. Pupils are expected to complete 3 Reading lessons via Reading Plus each week. This, coupled with reading at least five times per week at home, would mean that the child had met their home reading target for the week. A four-week trial period in May 2021 proved to be very effective (as shown in the

anonymised data of a cross-section of pupils below) with the pupils who regularly accessed the online lessons seeing great improvement in their reading speed, comprehension accuracy and progression through the reading levels.

Reading lessons	Reading lessons 80%+	Total words read	Average comprehension	Rate gain (words per minute)	Level Gain
31	29	26,694	92.1%	50	2.4
20	20	15,271	96.9%	30	1.6
19	18	9,970	94.4%	25	1.2
4	1	5,590	63%	0	0

PE in Reception

This year our PE day will be Friday.

Please ensure that PE kits are brought in at the start of the half term and remain in school so that they are always available for pupils if needed. They will be sent home at the end of each half term to be washed.

Times of the School Day:

Reception

8.45am	School gates open
8.50am	School starts
12pm – 12.45pm	Lunch
3.15pm	Home time

Class Worship and Family Learning Dates:

	Venue	Time
Reception Celebration of Learning	School Hall	Tue 19 th July 9am
Family Learning: Phonics & Early Reading	Reception Classroom	Thu 7 th Oct 2pm
Family Learning: Maths: Number		Thu 3 rd Feb 2pm
Family Learning: Understanding the World		Thu 17 th March 2pm
Family Learning: Maths: Shape, Space & Measure		Thu 12 th May 2pm