

At St Mary's School we are passionate about reading and know that literacy opens the door to a brighter future for your child. We ask that you continue to read with your child at least three times per week so that their reading skills continue to develop. Reading skills are important to your child's success in school, as they get older and begin work, and their life in general. You can help your child by reading to them from an early age. Research indicates that if a child reads 20 minutes a day at home, they will hear 1.8 million words per year. They will have read 821 hours each year, they will likely score better than 90% of their peers.

Benefits of Reading to Children:

- Supported cognitive development
- Improved language skills
- Preparation for academic success
- Developing a special bond with your child
- Increased concentration and discipline
- Improved imagination and creativity
- Cultivating a lifelong love of reading

Top tips to help you enjoy story time together:

- Ask your child to choose what they'd like to read. They'll feel more interested in the story if they've picked it out themselves. (And don't worry if they keep returning to the same story, either!)
- If you can, turn off the TV, radio and computer. It's easier for both of you to enjoy the story without any other distractions.
- Sit close together. You could encourage your child to hold the book themselves and turn the pages, too.
- Take a look at the pictures. You don't just have to read the words on the page. Maybe there's something funny in the pictures that you can giggle about together, or perhaps your child enjoys guessing what will happen next.
- Ask questions and talk about the book. Picture books can be a great way to talk through your child's fears and worries, or to help them deal with their emotions. Give them space to talk, and ask how they feel about the situations in the story.
- Have fun! There's no right or wrong way to share a story – as long as you and your child are having fun. Don't be afraid to act out situations or use funny voices... your little ones will love it!

We have put together some information below about how to access free e-books for your children so that they can continue to enjoy reading at home. These are fabulous resources which are easily accessible to all. In addition to home reading, your child will also be accessing story time and reading opportunities within their remote learning.

Please contact your child's class teacher or TA should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's reading.

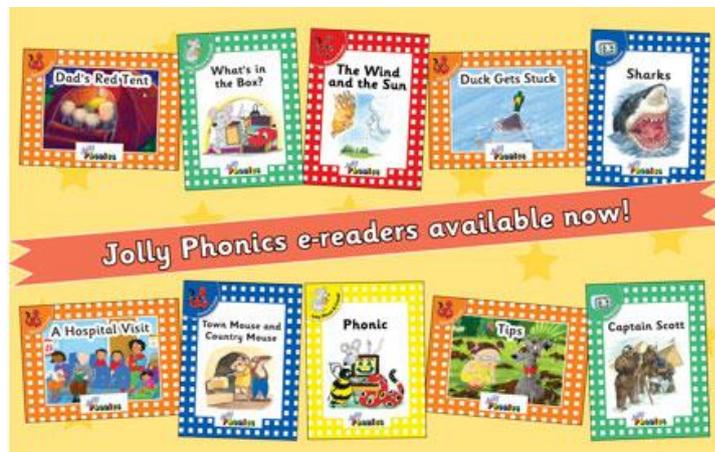
Jolly Phonics

Recommended for children who require fully decodable books (mainly Reception)

Suitable for SEND children or children who are require additional phonics support (across all Year groups in school).

Free e-books can be accessed online until 31st May 2021:

www.jollylearning.co.uk/jolly-phonics-e-readers-now-available/



For Reception children - Select the link for Orange Level Readers (link is below) which will take you to 21 orange e-books which are available free of charge.

<https://play.google.com/store/books/author?id=Louise+Van-Pottelsberghe>

For children requiring additional phonic support (Y1 and upwards) - Select the Red, Yellow, Green and Blue Level Readers (link is below) which will take you to a wide range of e-books which are available free of

charge. <https://play.google.com/store/books/author?id=Sara+Wernham>

- Children should read each book a couple of times to develop their reading skills. All books are fully decodable.
- Adult helpers should ask children questions to check their understanding and to allow children to recall and sequence key events or information.

For Reception children, upon direction of the class teacher, children may progress onto using Oxford Owl to access free e-books.

(information below)

Oxford Owl

Recommended for children reading red banded books upwards, who do not require fully decodable books.

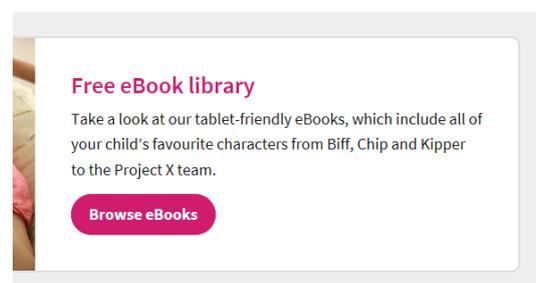
Suitable for SEND children.

Suitable for children ages up to 11 years, including those who are free readers.

Free e-books can be accessed online:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Select the '**Oxford Owl for home**' option and **enter the site**. Next select '**Browse eBooks**' from the '**Free eBook library**' box.

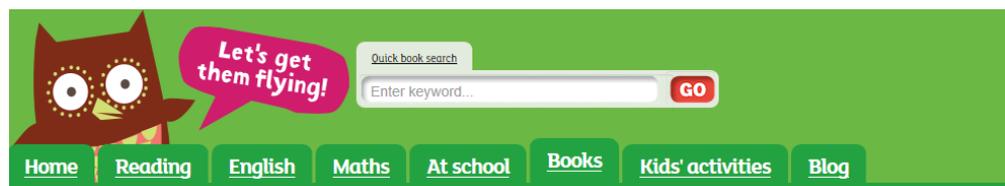


Then click '**Browse by Oxford Level**' and choose the book band level that your child was reading when we entered lockdown.

Browse by Oxford Level

- [Oxford Level 1](#) | Book Band: Lilac
- [Oxford Level 1+](#) | Book Band: Pink
- [Oxford Level 2](#) | Book Band: Red
- [Oxford Level 3](#) | Book Band: Yellow
- [Oxford Level 4](#) | Book Band: Light blue
- [Oxford Level 5](#) | Book Band: Green
- [Oxford Level 6](#) | Book Band: Orange
- [Oxford Level 7](#) | Book Band: Turquoise
- [Oxford Level 8](#) | Book Band: Purple, Brown
- [Oxford Level 9](#) | Book Band: Gold, Brown
- [Oxford Level 10](#) | Book Band: White, Brown
- [Oxford Level 11](#) | Book Band: Lime, Brown
- [Oxford Level 12](#) | Book Band: Lime+, Grey

Once you have selected your book band you will be directed to this page. You will need to register to access free eBooks. All eBooks are tablet friendly.



FREE eBook Library from Oxford Owl for Home

Welcome to our free eBooks collection, developed for children aged 3–11 years old. If you'd like to learn more about how to support your child's reading, visit our [Reading](#) pages.

All our eBooks are tablet-friendly. Just [register](#) or [log in](#) above to start reading.

Register is quick and easy and takes approximately 2 minutes. You select '**parent option**'. Then enter your name and email address. Set a password, enter the month and year your child was born (you can add multiple children). An email confirmation link will be sent for you to activate and off you go!

You can then log-in as a parent and select a book with your child.

- Adult helpers should ask children questions to check their understanding and to allow children to recall and sequence key events or information.
- Question prompts are sometimes included within the books.
- There is no requirement for your child to write the answers down to any questions posed. The focus is about reading and the enjoyment of sharing a book together.

Once your child has read the book a couple of times, they can complete the activities associated with that book.

If you feel that the books are too easy/too challenging then please contact your class teacher or TA for advice.

In addition to these fabulous free reading resources, your child may be asked to complete additional weekly reading tasks by their class teacher. This could include (but not be limited to):

- Reading comprehensions
- Guided reading sessions

- Each class within EYFS and KS1 will enjoy story times every day with their class teacher or TA during one of their live lessons.
- Each class with KS2 will enjoy regular story times with their class teacher or TA during one of their live lessons.
- Children are also encouraged to continue to read their own books from home.

