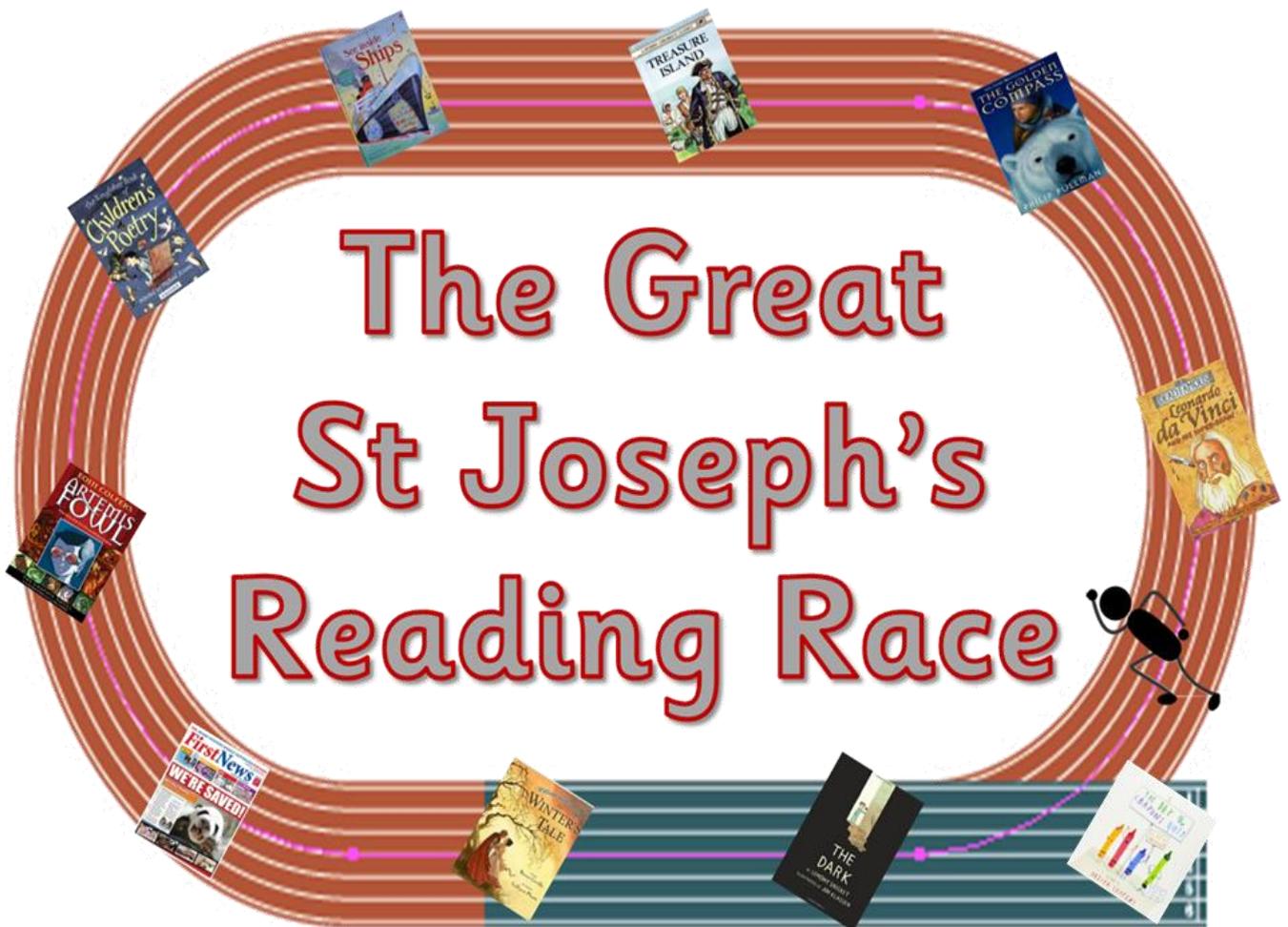


Everything
you need to
know about...



At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School reading is at the heart of everything we do.

The Great St Joseph's Reading Race is an exciting, school-wide initiative to promote the importance of reading for pleasure whatever your age!

What is the Great St Joseph's Reading Race?

From Early Years to Year Six, each year group within our school community has chosen **ten to fifteen core fiction texts** (dependent on year group) that children will be tasked to read across the academic year.

The chosen books represent age appropriate, high quality, '**must reads**' for your child and form the basis of a strong literature spine that runs through the school.

How will it work for my child?

Every child will be given a personalised 'event card' to keep in their home/school diary. The event card shows children and parents the core texts for that particular year group. Children can access texts from their classroom and are free to take these books home to read.

All children will be expected to have their Reading Race books with them at school every single day. There will be dedicated time each week so that children can enjoy some independent reading time in school.

When a particular text is complete, parents or carers are asked to sign or initial that title on their child's event card. After confirming this with their class teacher, your child is free to choose another core text from the classroom supply.

Stickers, raffle tickets and certificates will all be awarded as your child completes various milestones on their event card.

Will my child have a 'banded' reading book too?

The Great St Joseph's Reading Race is designed to fit your child's particular needs. As children have a whole school year to complete the race, they could also come home with an additional reading scheme book and a library book too! We want your child to read every single day and hope to provide enough

quality texts so that no child will ever be without an engaging and enjoyable book to read.

Will my child still read with an adult during the school week?

Our aim at St Joseph's is that every single child reads with an adult at least once a week. Some weeks, your child may be asked to read from their Reading Race book while other weeks they may concentrate on a traditional reading scheme book. Whatever the focus, our aim of weekly shared reading with an adult for all children remains a priority.

What can I do to support my child?

Reading is truly a window to the world and you can encourage your child on this adventure by reading with them and talking about what they've read. Reading should be a pleasure not a chore. Why not set aside twenty minutes out of a busy evening to sit and enjoy reading with your child? Or, create a twenty minute, 'no-phone zone' for older children where they can settle down to some quality book time with no distractions.

Do I have to buy the core texts for my child to read?

Absolutely not! All Reading Race texts are provided by the school and children will have a classroom bank to choose from.

What do I do if my child is struggling to read a core text?

The challenges of the National Curriculum are never far from the news and we must acknowledge that the expectation on children's reading has risen significantly. However, the core texts have been carefully chosen to offer as wide a breadth as possible within that expectation.

Finding a book challenging is **not** a bad thing; this is how children grow their vocabulary and improve their spoken and written language skills. Encourage your child to ask at school and home if they are unsure of the meaning of a word, letting them jot the word in their diary if need be. Why not challenge them to include any new words they discover in something they write?

Above all, The Great St Joseph's Reading Race is designed to inspire your child to read for pleasure every single day. We look forward to you joining us on this exciting journey!

Questions to ask when reading with your child

Before reading the book:

- What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story?
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb). Or, what does the blurb tell us?
- Talk about the different parts of the book: front cover, back cover, title, author and illustrator.

While reading the book:

- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next? How do you think the story might end?
- What sort of character is....? Is he/she friendly/mean/cunning...?
- Ask about events in the story. How would you feel if you had been that character? Has anything like that happened to you? Would you like that to happen to you?
- What have you enjoyed so far?

After finishing the book:

- What was your favourite part? Why? What was the most interesting/exciting part of the book? Why?
- Who are the main characters in the story? What character would you like to be?
- Would you like to read another story by this author or illustrator?
- Have you read any other books like this one?
- Does this story remind you of anything that has happened to you?
- Which of your friends would you recommend this book to? Why might they enjoy it?
- If you could ask the author a question what would it be? Why?
- Could you come up with an alternate ending?

Everyone a Reader! Everyday a Reading Day!