**Book Ideas**

In Year 1, children continue to learn to read words using phonics as well as learning to recognise Tricky Words that cannot easily be sounded out e.g. once. At St John’s we use ‘Monster Phonics’ to teach phonics. Our reading scheme to support this is also Monster Phonics.

As well as being able to read words, children need to understand *what* they read and develop a life-long love of reading. They will learn to do this through carefully structured activities and high-quality books.

They are encouraged to:

-Make links between their own experiences and the story

-Check that they understand what they are reading

-Talk about the title and the main events

-Predict what might happen before they read it

-Join in with predictable phrases

We are able to provide you with the following list of age-appropriate texts to support learning that you may like to borrow from the library over the year and share with your child:

**Stories with predictable phrasing**

My Granny Went To Market: A round – the – world counting rhyme – Stella Blackstone

We All Went On Safari: A Counting Journey through Tanzania – Laurie Krebs and Julia Cairns

Handa’s Hen – Eileen Browne

One Smiling Grandma: Caribbean Counting Book – Ann Marie Linden and Lynne Russell

This Is the Tree – Miriam Moss

Unfortunately – Alan Durant and Simon Rickerty

Monkey and Me – Emily Gravett

We’re Going on a Bear Hunt – Michael Rosen

We’re Going on a Lion Hunt – David Axtell

Over on the Farm – Christopher Gunson

**Contemporary fiction** – stories reflecting children’s own experiences

Naughty Bus – Jan and Jerry Oke

Do You Know What Grandad Did? – Brian Smith

Mr Davies and the Baby – Charlotte Voake

I Don’t Want To (and others) – Bel Mooney

Something Special – Nicola Moon

The Most Obedient Dog In The World – Anita Jeram

Nothing – Mick Inkpen

Tales of Trotter Street (and others) – Shirley Hughes

Dogger – Shirley Hughes

Amazing Grace – Mary Hoffman

Clever Sticks – Bernard Ashley

Bens Baby – Michael Foreman

**Traditional Tales and fairy tales**

Once Upon a Time – Nick Sharratt

The Three Billy Goats Gruff – Nick Sharratt and Stephen Tucker

The Teddy Robber – Ian Beck

The Ugly Duckling – Ian Beck

Twice Upon a Time Series – Rose Impey

The Great Big Enormous Turnip – Alexei Tolstoy and Helen Oxenbury

The Tiger Child: A folk tale from India – Joanna Troughton

**Early chapter books for able readers later in the year**

Isadora Moon series - Author: Harriet Muncaster

A half-fairy, half-vampire girl navigating magical adventures with charm and humour.

Dog Man series - Author: Dav Pilkey

Comic-style books with lots of humour and heart, perfect for advanced readers who enjoy illustrations and action.

Narwhal and Jelly series - Author: Ben Clanton

Graphic novel hybrids with simple vocabulary and clever humour about a narwhal and his jellyfish friend.

Owl Diaries (A Branches book) - Author: Rebecca Elliott

Diary-style books with colourful illustrations and simple, structured text—especially appealing for early independent readers.

The Princess in Black series - Authors: Shannon Hale & Dean Hale

A princess who secretly fights monsters. Great mix of fantasy and early action.

Binky the Space Cat series - Author: Ashley Spires

Humorous graphic-novel style books about a house cat who believes he’s an astronaut.

Ninja Kid series - Author: Anh Do

Action-packed stories about a nerdy boy who discovers he's a ninja hero.

Mercy Watson series - Author: Kate DiCamillo

Delightfully quirky tales of a toast-loving pig. Simple text with rich vocabulary and humour.

Zoe and Sassafras series - Author: Asia Citro

Science meets magic! Zoe helps magical animals using science-based problem-solving.

Hey Jack! / Billie B. Brown series - Author: Sally Rippin

Relatable school and friendship stories with short chapters and supportive illustrations.

Super Happy Magic Forest series (illustrated fiction/graphic hybrid) - Author: Matty Long

Quirky, funny fantasy with bold visuals and epic quests—fun for strong readers.

The Bad Guys series - Author: Aaron Blabey

Graphic novel-style series with animals trying to reform their villainous ways—fast-paced and funny.

Judy Moody and Stink (younger brother) series - Author: Megan McDonald

Stink’s books, in particular, are accessible for Year 1 with humour and school themes.

Unicorn Diaries (A Branches book) - Author: Rebecca Elliott

A magical twist on school stories, aimed at readers transitioning from picture books.

Captain Underpants series - Author: Dav Pilkey

Great for advanced readers who love humour and irreverent fun. Lots of illustrations and comic sections.