St John's Catholic Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Ms Patricia O'Donnell

Reading Test – SATs Preparation

In this test, the children will answer questions about a set of short texts. They may be fiction or non-fiction (and occasionally poetry).

Your child will have 1 hour to read these texts and answer the questions. **They are allowed to make notes on the reading booklet.**

So encourage them to underline:

- Key events in the story
- Words which tell what a character is like
- Key facts
- Anything which suggests time of day (like 'low sun' would suggest it is the morning or evening)
- Phrases they like – handy if there is a question asking for an opinion on the story.

Annotations such as these could help your child find their way around the text when answering the questions later. They must read each question twice. It does not take long, and will aid understanding of what is required in their response.

Questions in these reading papers often ask 'Which part of the story tells us that……' – so your child will need to quote, or summarise that part of the story to answer the question properly.

Remind them to try all questions, which do not necessarily get harder through the test. Here are some tips for how to use practice papers with your child:

- ✓ Look through a practice paper together and talk about how you would answer the questions. If you are undertaking activities, choose sections of the paper rather than trying to complete the whole thing in one go.
- ✓ Agree on what the question is actually asking you to do.
- ✓ The number of marks each question is worth is printed at the side.

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- ✓ One mark answers can be brief – one word or number.
- ✓ Two mark answers will require at least two bits of information, like two different phrases, or an answer complete with method.
- ✓ Responses to three mark answers need to be thorough. Encourage your child to look for this information, and not to waste time agonising over the one-mark answers.
- ✓ Some questions are multi-choice. If they do not know the answer, your child can guess – and might still get a mark. Children are not used to doing this!
- ✓ If they get stuck on a question, tell them to move on rather than waste time on it.
- ✓ Practice spending five minutes checking a paper to make sure all the questions are answered as fully as necessary.

Finally, in the run up to our assessments the Bedrock website is a fantastic subscription service that the school has purchased for our Year 6 children. The website offers personalised lessons, to cater precisely for each child's ability. Last year, the children who made the most progress across the year were those who completed the most lessons on 'Bedrock'.