

September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with news of the new 'St Mary's Metro Reading Map' for junior children, which has been launched this week.

It is intended to be used to remind the children that they are on a 'reading journey' and will hopefully inspire them to try and make good progress on their own personal 'journey' as a reader.

The idea is based upon a 'metro' system – similar to the Manchester Metrolink system (although I hope this to be a bit more efficient!) The difference is that the 'lines' need to be visited in order of progressing difficulty and that the 'stations' are actually titles of books that children should attempt to read and check-off along the way.

**This is how we intend it to work:**

1) Teacher tells each child of their starting line colour and which 'station' (book) they should try to find and read first. This is recorded inside their green reading record.

(If a book is not available for whatever reason, your child should move to the next book on the line or simply choose another book and mark it on their 'map' as an extra 'station')

2) Child reads the book, completing their green reading record along the way (remember: we look for x3 recorded 'reads' per week in the juniors) Once the book is complete, they should tick it off on their map and note the date they finished it.

3) Child should look for the next book (station) on their map and begin to read it. They need to keep recording 'reads' in their green reading record as usual. Again, if a book is not available, they can choose another from the correct colour line and note it on their own map.

4) Once the required number of 'stations' have been visited on their line colour, your child should check with the teacher and then they will be given their next colour line to visit and a new starting point. The required number of 'stations' (books) to read on each 'line' are noted in the guidance in the front of your child's reading record and on each personal map.

Of course, we anticipate that there will be issues along the way – perhaps your child has already read one of the books on the 'line', or there may be availability issues. When this happens, we hope that there will be enough choice in our school library to facilitate a different choice of book and that your child will still be able to advance quickly along their reading journey.

## FAQs

- **My child does not like to read school books. They prefer to choose their own from home. What should I do?**

This new scheme has lots of different texts to choose from – children often get set in their ways and do not choose a wide variety of authors or styles of texts. Please remind them that they can still read other books from home **ALONGSIDE** their journey on the ‘metro map’ scheme.

- **I find the new scheme a bit confusing. Does my child have to read every book on their line colour before they can move to another line?**

The scheme has a selection of texts that have been chosen for each line, although there are more to choose from than are marked on the ‘map’. Read the guidance for each colour line to see a guide for how many should be read before moving on. Please also remember that if your child reads a book *from school* that is not on their ‘line’ that this is totally OK. They should just add the ‘station’ (book title) onto their map and tick/date when they have finished it.

- **Where is my child ‘going’ on this ‘journey’?**

The intention is that by moving through the line colours, by the end of Year 6, they will be ‘free readers’ having completed the ‘mucky green’ line of texts.

- **Do the books have to be from the blue boxes in the library?**

Yes – although ‘free readers’ by the end of Year 6 may choose what they wish.

- **Some of the books are challenging – is this OK?**

By Year 6, your child should be engaging with challenging texts that stretch their thinking and extend their vocabulary. But of course, we want them to enjoy their reading more than anything. If you have any issues, please talk to your class teacher.

- **I struggle to get my child to read at all. Have you got any advice?**

Yes. Remind them that reading is the key to doing well at school and will help unlock their potential for future challenges they will face. Once they really get into a book and start to question it, they will further their understanding and ultimately enjoy it. Set a non-negotiable routine for reading at set times and set up a reward for once it is done. Remember to read **WITH** (and to!) your child where possible – even right up to the end of Year 6! Playing reading games like ‘I Spy’ for who can find words the quickest also helps to make it fun. Please talk to your child’s teacher or come to speak to me if would like any other tips.



# St Mary's Church of England Primary School

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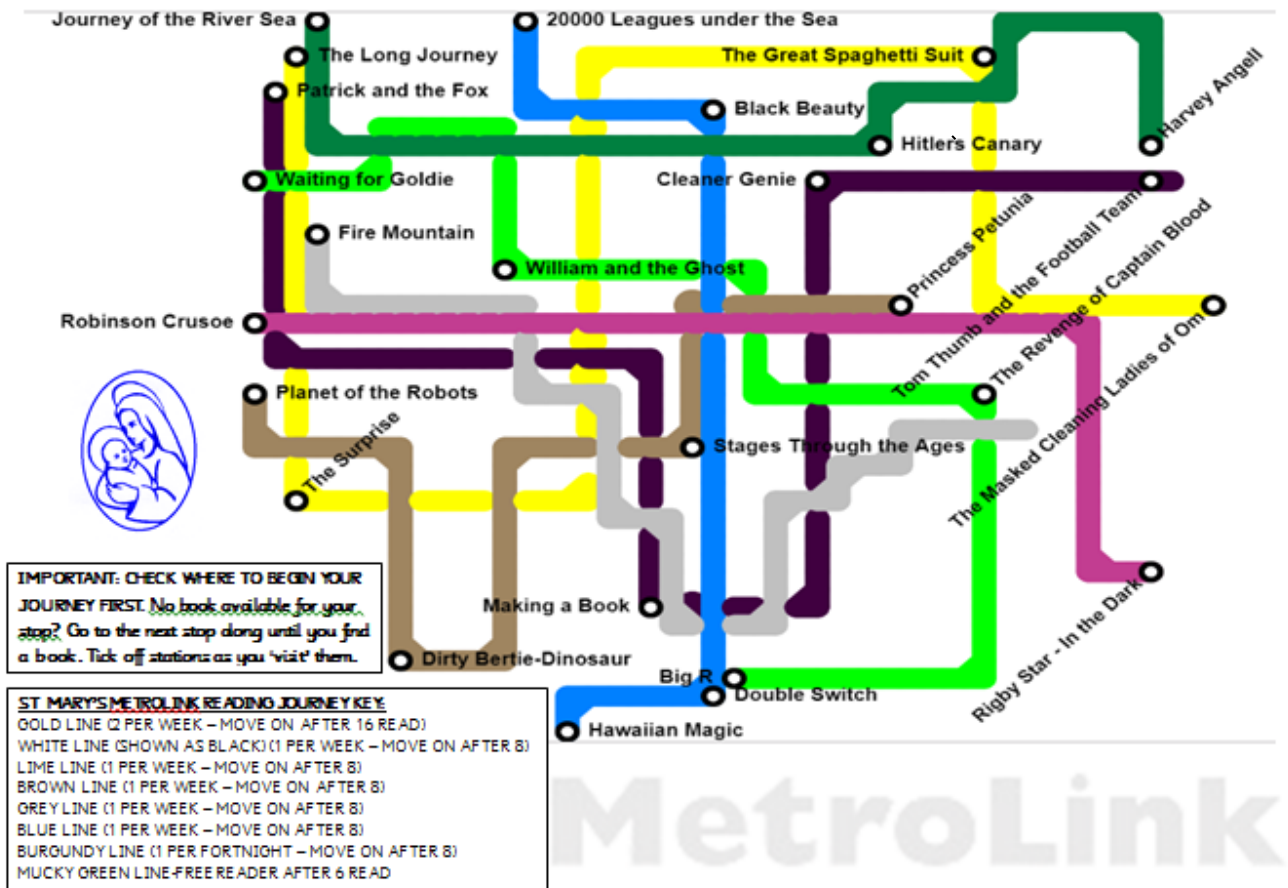
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- What does the scheme / map look like?



A copy of this map and also your child's own personal 'line' can be found in the school library and in the front of their green reading record.

- **When can my child change their book?**

Your child will be told by their teacher when they can change their book – but normally we encourage 8.55am, break times, home time or if they ask permission from their teacher.

I hope you will join us in trying to make this new reading journey a success for your child. If you have any questions, please ask your child's teacher or make an appointment to see me and I will do my best to help.

Sincerely,

Mr S Day  
KS2 Leader / Assistant Headteacher & Literacy Lead

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