



*Saint Michael School*

209 Essex Street  
Fall River, MA 02720

[www.smsfr.org](http://www.smsfr.org)

## **Literacy Letter 1**

**January 2021**



**DEAR PARENTS,**

**Did you know** that if you read picture books to your first graders every day, by the end of the year, they will have a **higher vocabulary** and **pick up reading skills more quickly and easily?**

- When you take time to read to your children daily, you're saying—with your actions—"I **love you** and I want you to read

because it is critical to your **learning and success in life.**"

**Here are some tips to add reading into your children's everyday routine:**

1. **Read** to your child everyday for at least **10-15 minutes** so it becomes a **routine**. Right before bed is a good time or whatever fits into your schedule.
2. **Snuggle** with your children and let them hold the book and turn the pages.
3. Read with **fun in your voice, body and face**. Use different voices for different characters.
4. **Talk about what the pictures** show. What kind of face is the character making? Why? Look for clues in the picture that show what the story is about.
5. Run your finger along the bottom of the words. Soon your child will realize it is the words that are read and not the pictures. Ask them to read words they recognize from school.
6. Ask your children "**who, what, why, how, when**" questions about the story. Most importantly, **HAVE FUN!** Your child will connect reading to a warm and wonderful experience!

**To order books for curbside pick up at Fall River Public Library** at 104 North Main Street, just call: David Mello. Children's Librarian at 508-324-2700 ext.4. The library is 7 minutes from St. Michael. Or go to:

<https://fallriverlibrary.org/Pages/Index/182177/childrens-home-page>