



PART 1

A guide to supporting your child's reading development at home



Reading at Yateley School

Starting this term, all year 7 and 8 students have a whole library lesson timetabled into their English classes per fortnight. This will run until the end of the academic year and continue into next year. As a school, we are really excited for the students to have the opportunity to spend time on, not only improving their literacy skills through the variety of tasks set each time, but also having the chance to discover new books suited to their own interests and getting them reading again (or those avid readers extending their own repertoire of tastes!).

Each child will be given a reading record where they will record their reading and then given the chance to reflect on and discuss what they have read. Each time the discussion will be supported by the librarian, Janet Hood, who will recommend further reading to each child.

We would also like to support parents/carers at home with their child's reading as we know it can become ever more challenging for our children to engage with reading once at secondary, but also for those who are already very keen readers and would like to be given the chance to indulge even more.

Enjoy the little moments to get the reading up to date...

Reading at home is as important as reading at school- in some ways it is more important, because it is at home that young people are more likely to start associating reading with enjoyment, relaxation and something intrinsic to everyday life rather than purely with learning.

Regular reading will improve a student's:

- understanding of vocabulary and spelling,
- understanding of punctuation and sense of sentence structures,
- ability to use their imagination,
- understanding of the world around them and of other cultures,
- ability to relax and focus on a single task for a sustained period of time.

How else can I support their reading development?

If you have 5 minutes:

Ask your child to read you the instructions for a recipe, DIY furniture or a new gadget (basically, make any reading that needs to be done your child's job!)

If you have 15 minutes:

Ask your child to read you an article from a newspaper or magazine- ask them to summarise what has been read afterwards. Discuss your views on the article.

If you have 30 minutes:

Read a chapter of your child's book with them- you could take turns reading. Play a board game that involves making words- like Scrabble, Bananagram or Boggle.

At bedtime...

We cannot emphasise the importance of audiobooks enough! Although the child is not actually reading themselves, they still engage in stories being read with exciting plots and characters and are being modelled good reading skills which will help with developing their creative minds and help to structure their own writing.





PART 2

A guide to supporting your child's reading development at home



What can I do if my child just doesn't want to read?

- Don't force them: initially, if your child is disinterested or reluctant to read, don't force the issue at that moment. It can be better to stop and try again when they are happy and relaxed.
- Be a model reader: it is important that your child sees you reading books, newspapers, magazines and other materials.
- Take turns: if they refuse to read initially, then read to them and then gradually offer to take turns.
- Rewards: is there something that your child could work towards earning by completing a certain amount of reading or days of completed reading homework?

Further ideas for helping your child to read at home

<https://www.reading4kids.co.uk>

This website includes lots of book suggestions and reviews for children and young people of all ages- it includes extracts of each book.)

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/filter/?age=9-12>

This website is part of the National Literacy Trust. There are some really interesting 'read now' activities for your child to get involved in if they want.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/reading-at-home/encouraging-reading-ages-9-11/>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-age-10-11-year-6/>

This Website from Oxford Owl links to years 5 and 6, but provide excellent recommendations for the reluctant or struggling reader!

Use the APP BorrowBox which gives free access to thousands of eBooks and eAudio books to members of Hampshire libraries (which all students are):

<https://www.borrowbox.com/>

Need more help?

If you have any other questions or concerns about how to motivate or support your child with their reading development, please do not hesitate to contact your child's English teacher or I would be more than happy to help you. Please contact cindy.robinson@yateley.hants.sch.uk.

Give priority to books



If you want to make reading a habit, rethink how you are using your free time. Automatic attitudes, such as messaging on mobiles or switching channels on television without being really interested in the content they are consuming can become more productive reading times.

Understanding your screen time can be so helpful, because even if students spent just 10% of the time reading a book that they do on their phones or TVs each day then they will progress more rapidly than those that don't!



PART 3

How to read more in four easy to take steps...

1



Choose to read different genres simultaneously

Did you know that by merging your reading between books of different genres can help your list of readings change faster? That way, getting tired of one book can move on to another, without it harming your habit of reading!

2



Be flexible with your list of readings

Do what your reading time is pleasing and do not make it just another task you need to accomplish. Try to prioritise those works that you really want to read and postpone without guilt the reading of that book that has been on your shelf for months.

3



Enjoy the little moments to get the reading up to date

How about enjoying the time you spend in the car, at lunchtime or even queuing to read? A good tip for those moments (if you do not like to interrupt a chapter in the middle) are short story books, poems or shorter chapters.

4



Find out your preferences regarding reading

To make your reading even more enjoyable, note what time of day you prefer to read. Some people prefer to read in natural light, others before bed. Know what works best for you and try to organize your day accordingly.