



READING MATTERS

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path".
(Psalm 119:105)

Autumn 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first Reading Matters newsletter for the new academic year. It has been lovely to welcome our new Year 7 students and see that, despite lots of new routines and challenges, they have settled into life at All Saints' well.

Every term a Reading Matters newsletter will be sent out via Insight and our Facebook page outlining all of the reading events taking place in school and sharing any reading related news.

Please feel free to share any book recommendations which we can share.

L Lathall

Mrs Lathall Reading Co-ordinator



All pupils in Years 7 and 8 are involved in a program called Accelerated Reader.

This program has not only been specifically

designed to improve pupils' reading ability and continue to raise their reading age, but also to encourage and nurture a love of reading that will continue into adulthood. Reading is a national priority for a number of reasons: being able to demonstrate competent reading skills is essential for subjects across the entire curriculum.

Scientific research shows clearly that a pupil who reads regularly for 20 minutes per day is far more likely to be successful at GCSE level and beyond.

The Accelerated Reader Program works by identifying a pupil's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) which is essentially a selection of books that will not only match their ability, but will also challenge them and develop their vocabulary.

When they have finished a book, students can take a short, electronic quiz that assesses their understanding of what they have read. This enables us as teachers to have meaningful discussions about a pupil's reading: what they have learnt and how we can help them to develop.

We would like to ask for your assistance in ensuring that your son/daughter reads regularly at home for short periods of time as this will help to boost their reading confidence and their reading ability.

Once your son/daughter has completed their STAR reading test, they will use their ZPD to select a reading book from our library. They need to be reading this book each day as part of their English homework. Pupils have also been given an AR log book and there are pages at the back to record any reading done at home. Once they have finished their book, they can take a quiz from home, during break or lunch at school or stay for Homework Club Monday-Thursday. Pupils have been given a clear, plastic wallet to keep their book in.



Thinking Reading

Reading opens the door to learning and to the world. It is easy to forget that what may seem to us an apparently effortless task can be extremely effortful for some children. Reading is an entitlement of every child as it gives them a tool that they can apply independently at any time, and for a myriad of purposes. Therefore, if they are ill-equipped to read, they are lacking this essential tool whose use is required at almost every juncture of an ordinary day.

As a school, we are focused on improving students' reading to enhance their progress across the curriculum. We also want to ensure our students have the opportunity to explore a range of different texts and foster a love of reading. To support us in our mission, we have partnered with Thinking Reading and at the end of the last academic year gained official certification to deliver Thinking Reading to our students.

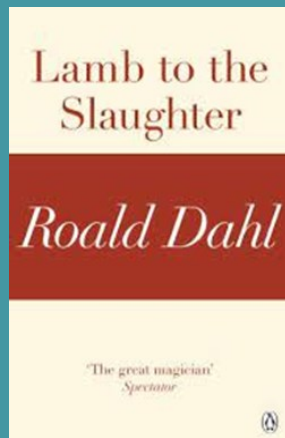
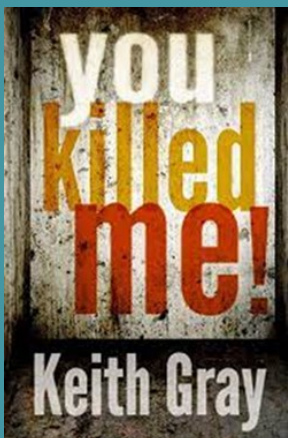
We will begin working with the students who were receiving support last year to ensure a smooth transition into year 8. Once the new cohort of year 7s have completed their STAR reading tests, we will begin identifying pupils from year 7 who will benefit from some additional reading support.



Tutor Time Reading

As a school we are keen to provide as many opportunities for reading for pleasure as possible.

Consequently, this academic year, one tutor time session every week will be dedicated to whole class reading. Pupils in KS3 will be reading "You Killed Me!" by Keith Gray, and pupils in KS4 and KS5 will be reading the short story "Lamb to the Slaughter" by Roald Dahl. Tutors will be reading out loud to the students as they follow in their reading booklets. Pupils will then use the reciprocal reading strategies to support and aid their understanding.



Reciprocal reading

Being a Book Detective



Reciprocal reading is a reading practice designed to develop and support comprehension. Students are encouraged to read, talk and think their way through a text using the following skills:

- Prediction
- Clarify
- Question
- Summarise

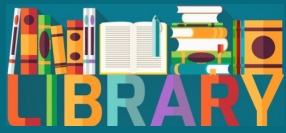
Prediction—Making predictions from what is already known from the text structure and text features as well as any relevant background knowledge.

Clarify — Clarifying unfamiliar vocabulary and challenging concepts.

Questioning - Asking questions about the text using Who, What, Where, When and Why.

Summarising — Summing up the main ideas or gist of the text.

Efficient readers synthesise these strategies when reading. In order to make these explicit to students, it is essential that each one is modelled and scaffolded separately.



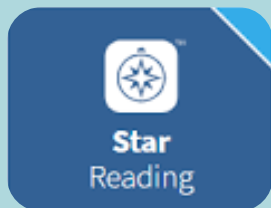
Pupils in year 7 have had a library induction session to ensure they are familiar with how the library works and when they can access the library. Our Librarian, Mrs Crowe, is on hand to provide advice and support.

How can I support my child with their reading?

1. Look for things your children might like to read. Use their interests and hobbies as starting points.
2. Encourage reading choice. Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.
3. Encourage your child to read aloud to you an exciting passage in a book, an interesting section in the newspaper, or a joke in a joke book. When children read aloud, don't feel they have to get every word right. Even good readers skip or mispronounce words now and then!
4. Let your children see you reading for pleasure in your spare time.
5. Visit the library regularly and explore the children's section together. Ask a librarian to suggest books and magazines your children might enjoy.
6. Encourage older children to read to their younger brothers and sisters. Older children enjoy showing off their skills to an admiring audience.
7. Share your reactions to things you read, and encourage your children to do likewise.
8. Read aloud to your child, especially a child who is discouraged by his or her own poor reading skills. The pleasure of listening to you read, rather than struggling alone, may restore your child's initial enthusiasm for books and reading.
9. Give books as presents. And encourage your children and their friends to swap books with each other - it'll give them a chance to read new stories, and get them all talking about what they're reading.
10. Have a family bookshelf. If you can, have bookshelves in your children's bedrooms, too.

STAR Reading Tests

Pupils in years 7 and 8 will be completing their first STAR reading test this half term. The testing dates are between Monday 18th September and Friday 13th October. Pupils will write their reading ages and ZPD in their planners.



In to the Future!

Reading can be a wonderful, relaxing experience and can open up a whole new world for our children. Even in this technological age we need to be able to read, and read a variety of styles and texts. As children progress through the education system, more demands will be made upon them.

As parents and teachers, we must help our children to become accomplished readers but we also want them to enjoy the experience so that they can go forward into the world with confidence and a skill for life.

Follow us on **Instagram**



I'd love to hear your book recommendations. Please email me at Lathall.I@allsaints.notts.sch.uk with your top reads! You can also send me any reading related news that you'd like me to share. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mrs Lathall *Lathall*



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