



READING MATTERS

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

Autumn 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful summer! We are so happy to welcome everyone back and we are especially pleased to welcome our new year 7s who have already settled well into their new routines.

Each term we will send you a copy of our Reading Matters newsletter which shares information regarding the reading events and activities taking place in school as well as helpful tips for supporting reading at home, trusted websites and resources, and up-to-date book recommendations. We also have an Instagram page where we also share updates so, please do follow us there.

Thank you for being part of your child's reading journey - your support makes all the difference!

L. Lathall Mrs Lathall, Reading Co-ordinator

BOOK RECOMMENDATION (Aged 11–13)

"The Final Year" by Matt Goodfellow (2023)

Genre: Contemporary verse novel

Themes: Family, change, resilience, growing up

A powerful and moving story told in verse about a boy navigating Year 6 and the transition to secondary school - perfect for KS3 students reflecting on change and identity. It's heartfelt, accessible, and beautifully written, ideal for readers who may be put off by heavier prose but still crave emotional depth.

"A book that hooks reluctant readers and deeply satisfies the confident ones." - Book-Trust.



Useful Websites & Resources



Great for book recommendations by age, tips on reading together, and themed book lists.



offers reviews, extracts, and "If you liked this, try..." suggestions - great for finding similar books your child might enjoy.



Via your local library. Free access to eBooks and audiobooks using a library card - perfect for on-the-go reading.



Oxford Owl for Home Includes free reading materials, tips, and resources for parents to help with comprehension skills.



Child-friendly news stories to help with non-fiction reading and critical thinking.



Every Tuesday and Wednesday during tutor time, a group of students get support with their reading using Reading Eggs. Reading Eggs is a program that focuses on teaching phonics and sight words using interactive games and activities. As the students complete activities, they are awarded eggs. For this half term, those children who were involved in the Reading Eggs sessions last year will continue.

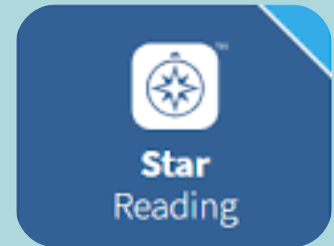


BOOK CLUB

Running every Monday after half-term, during lunchtime, for children in KS3. If your son/daughter is interested in joining this popular club, please ask them to see Miss Dunstan in M22 for more details.

STAR Reading Tests

Year 7 and year 8 are currently taking their STAR reading assessments. Once your son/daughter has completed their assessment, they will record their reading age and ZPD in their planners.



Accelerated Reader™

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; being able to demonstrate competent reading skills is essential for subjects across the entire curriculum.

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 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 for at least 30 minutes each week as part of their English homework. There is a space in the homework planner to tick to confirm that the 30 minutes of reading has taken place each week.

Once they have finished their book, they can take a quiz from home, during break or lunch at school. If they pass their quiz with 80% or higher, they will move up their ZPD.



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 have gained official certification to deliver Thinking Reading to our students. This half term we will be working with the previous TR students to ensure they have maintained their progress. 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. If your child is going to be involved in the sessions, a letter will be sent home.



Helping Your Child Love Reading

Top Tips for Supporting Your Child's Reading at Home

- 1. Make Time to Talk About Books** Encourage your child to discuss what they're reading - characters they like, plot twists, or new vocabulary. Even a 5-minute chat builds connection and comprehension.
- 2. Let Them Choose** Support their reading preferences - graphic novels, audiobooks, magazines, and non-fiction all count. Ownership leads to engagement.
- 3. Be a Reading Role Model** If your child sees you reading regularly - whether it's a book, newspaper or recipe - it helps normalise reading as part of everyday life.



- 4. Set Small Goals** Help them set achievable reading goals, like reading a chapter a night or finishing a book by the weekend. Celebrate small wins.

- 5. Use Technology Wisely** If your child prefers screens, try e-books or apps like Audible or BorrowBox to keep them engaged.



I'd love to hear your book recommendations. Please email me at

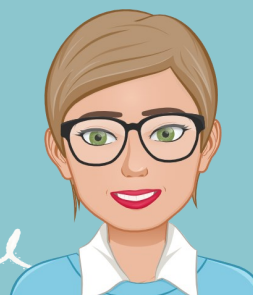
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with your top reads!

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

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