



A GUIDE TO SUPPORTING READING FOR PARENTS OF KS3 STUDENTS AT HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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About this booklet

This booklet offers ideas to help you support your child's learning as they move through secondary school.

One of the best ways you can help your child do well at school is by helping them to enjoy reading for pleasure - whether they like non-fiction books, newspapers, novels or comics.

Research shows that children who enjoy reading do better at school, and that parents play a key role in helping to develop this love of reading.

Research findings: Reading means Achieving

Recent research into the reading skills of 15 year olds across the world found that children who are more interested in reading do better at school than those who don't read for pleasure. The study also found that parents who talk to their children about books, TV programmes and films help to keep their children interested in reading.

Having books, newspapers and magazines around at home also made a difference to how interested children were in reading.



Frequently Asked Questions

You will find the answers to these questions at the end of the booklet.

What do I need to know about reading at Key Stages 3 and 4?

I am really busy and don't have time to read with my child. What can I do?

My child doesn't like reading. What can I do?

I find reading a challenge. Can I still help my child?

My child keeps reading the same books over and over again. Should I be encouraging them to vary their book choices?

Instant ideas for helping your child to love reading **- suggestions from parents**

- Let your child choose what to read, rather than choosing what you think they should read.
- Encourage your child to read comics, newspapers and the internet as well as books.
- Talk to your child about books you haven't enjoyed, as well as things you love.
- Make time to read together if you can.
- Buy books as presents. Don't forget TV tie-ins and books about interests such as computer games or musicians.



- Remember that your child is reading when they are looking at bus timetables, menus, instructions, TV guides and the internet.
- Help your child to find books they will enjoy by joining the public library, if you are not already members. Small Heath library, on Muntz Street, is open Tuesday-Saturday until 5/6pm. Sparkhill library, on Strateford Road, is open Monday- Thursday, as well as Saturdays. The Library of Birmingham, in Centenary Square, is the largest library in Europe, which could be an exciting day out for you and your child.
- Read together. Try picking reading material about interests or hobbies you share, like your football team or a place you have visited together. 10 minutes a few times a week will make a difference.
- Talk to your child about the types of reading they are doing in school; get them to explain to you what they already know about types of non-fiction (factual writing), and try to match them to the subjects your child does at school.
- Chat about which books or magazines your child might read, to learn more about the subjects they study at school.
- Buy a book or Amazon voucher which can be used to purchase books, as a treat, gift or reward.
- Go online to have a look at sites that might be useful for different subjects. All libraries have free internet access which can be booked. For information about safe websites for children, visit the **Parents Information Network** at www.pin.bamsi.org or **Child Safety Online** at www.gov.uk.



- Go along to an event at the library together. Most libraries run the Summer Reading Challenge, a fun scheme that encourages children to read by giving them rewards like stickers, bookmarks and medals. You could encourage your child to take part.

Support reading at KS3

Your child will be working with many different types of reading materials, from newspaper articles and adverts to scientific explanations and instructions. There are lots of quick things to do at home that will help your child to understand different text types:

- Try some skimming and scanning together. Skimming is when you read through a piece of text quickly to find out what the main idea is; scanning is glancing through a piece of text to find a specific piece of information. You can do this with a newspaper - perhaps ask your child to find something out for you. Why not ask them to scan a newspaper for news about a favourite footballer or to find out the weekend weather, or get them to skim read a recipe to tell you the basic steps?
- Help your child to work out what an unfamiliar word means by getting them to read the rest of the sentence and look for clues.

Parent power: Parents make the difference, say experts. A recent study has found that children who were reading to their parents improved their reading skills a great deal, even if the parents could not read English or read at all in any language.



Can read, won't read. Help! What can I do?

Lots of children and teenagers don't read - here are some hints and tips from parents with reluctant readers:

- Talk to your child to find out what they do and don't like reading.
- Go to the library together and encourage your child to borrow something that interests them. Many libraries lend magazines as well as books for free. Don't forget graphic novels (novels that are like comics), cartoons and comics.
- Don't force your child to read something they are not interested in, even if you are worried about their reading.
- The LRC (school library) is an excellent place for your child to discover something that they want to read. We have a wide range of new books and a knowledgeable librarian that will get to know your child and their interests, in order to suggest the best books for them.
- Sora is an online library that we have invested in, so is free for your child to use. There are a wide range of books, audiobooks and graphic novels available. To access Sora, search on your web browser and log in using your school email address.

Encourage your child to read by finding reading material about their interests. Any reading that your child does is a good thing.



Further Questions

What do I need to know about reading at Key Stages 3 and 4?

In English, students are expected to read many different kinds of text, including plays, poems, and non-fiction (for example, diaries, travel writing, and science writing). As well as this, other subjects provide the chance for students to read for pleasure and study.

I am really busy and don't have time to read with my child. What can I do?

10 minutes a day or even a few times a week will make a real difference to your child's reading. Why not have a look at the 'instant ideas' at the beginning of each section for quick things you can do to help.

My child doesn't like reading. What can I do?

Try to find things for them to read that are about their interests and let them choose what they want to read as much as you can. Magazines, comics and non-fiction (fact) books might be more interesting to your child than stories. Other reading activities, like setting up a gadget using the instruction manual can be helpful. Don't forget that using the internet requires reading skills too and there is free access at your local library. If they are interested in computer games, there are lots of books on how to play the games and 'cheats' (short cuts). Praise your child for any reading they do and



make sure they see you reading too. Keep any reading you do together short and fun. Even though it is worrying, pushing your child too hard, or making reading a chore, will put them off even more.

I find reading a challenge. Can I still help my child?

Research has shown that talking to children about what they are reading, and having books at home make a difference to children's progress even if parents have problems with reading themselves. If you want help with reading or have a friend you think needs help, check your local library for information on local classes and support.

My child keeps reading the same books over and over again. Should I be encouraging them to vary their book choices?

Children often re-read books they have enjoyed or will stick to a particular genre (for example, horror) or series. Reading the same books or same type of books over and over helps them to build reading confidence, and children will usually move on at their own pace. Don't stop them reading books again - interfering with what children choose to read can often put them off. If you are worried, you could make some suggestions for other books they might enjoy based on what they are already reading. For example, a child who enjoys Goosebumps might enjoy the Series of Unfortunate Events books. Ask your child's teacher, a librarian or a bookseller for advice on suitable titles.



Help - useful organisations and websites

Below is a list of organisations and websites where you can get more information about reading with your child.

Achuka is an independent children's book site that has something for everyone. www.achuka.co.uk

Barrington Stoke is an award-winning publisher that makes books for reluctant, dyslexic, disenchanted and under-confident readers. www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

Booktrust promotes children's reading and produces a wide range of information for young readers including booklists.

www.booktrust.org.uk (website for teenagers)

Family Lives is a charity working with parents and families offering advice and information about a range of parenting issues. www.familylives.org.uk



Reading Expectations- KS3



Reading is the best way for students to improve their literacy skills. At Holy Trinity, we are dedicated to promoting the importance and enjoyment of reading across all subjects.

To help students and parents understand and support our reading ethos, we have listed some of our minimum expectations for reading below:

- All students are expected to read for a minimum of 10 minutes every day.



- Students are expected to regularly update their reading books. This should be done as soon as a book is finished. The LRC is open to all students before school (from 8am), break and lunch time, as well as after school (until 4pm).
- Students are expected to bring their reading book to school with them every day.

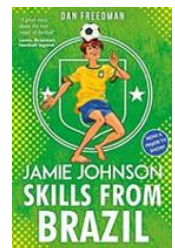
We have created a suggested reading list for all KS3 students. **It is recommended that every student from yr7-yr9 will read at least one book from the list during each half term.** Some books have been chosen that specifically link to different subject areas and to enhance their understanding of the curriculum. These have been indicated on the lists below.

All books listed are available to borrow in the LRC and can also be accessed digitally using 'Sora'- an online library which is free for all students to use. To access Sora, search on your web browser and log in using your school email address.

Key Stage 3 Recommended Reading List- Academic year 2023-24

Year 7

Autumn 1:



- 'Future Friend'- David Baddiel
- The London Eye Mystery- Siobhan Dowd



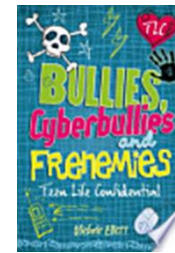
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'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'

- 'Go Big: The Secondary School Survival Guide'- Matthew Burton (PSD links)
- 'Skills from Brazil'- Jamie Johnson (PE)
- 'The Fastest Boy in the World'- Elizabeth Laird (Geography)

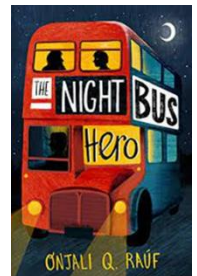
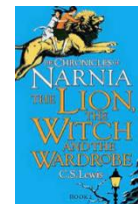
Autumn 2:

- 'The Box of Delights'- John Masefield
- 'The Ship of Shadows'- Maria Kuzniar
- 'The Railway Children' -Edith Nesbit
- 'Bullies, Cyberbullies and Frenemies'- Michele Elliot (PSD)
- 'Flash Flood'- Chris Ryan (Geography)



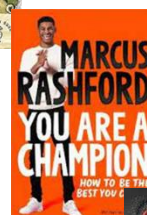
Spring 1:

- 'Lost Magic'- Brian Moses
- 'Dream Big! Heroes who dared to be bold'- Sally Morgan
- 'Happy Here: 10 stories from Black British Authors'
- 'The Night Bus Hero'- Onjali Q. Rauf (PSD)
- 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'- C.S. Lewis (RE)



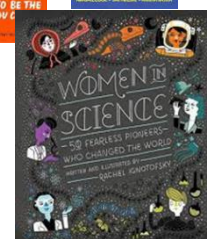
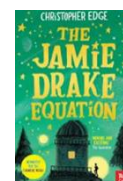
Spring 2:

- 'Pig Heart Boy'- Malorie Blackman
- 'Danny the Champion of the World'- Roald Dahl
- 'Rising Stars: New Young Voices in Poetry'
- 'Charlotte's Web'- E.B. White
- 'You are a Champion'- Marcus Rashford (PE/ PSD)



Summer 1:

- 'The Jamie Drake Equation'- Christopher Edge
- 'Women in Science'- Rachel Ignotofsky (Science)

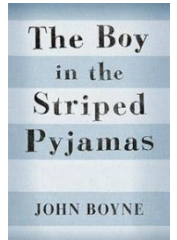
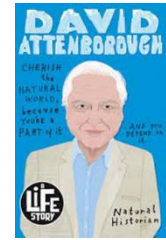
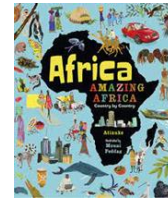




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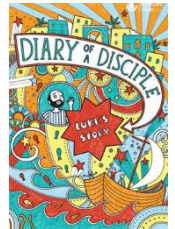
'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'

- 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' - John Boyne
- 'David Attenborough' - Lizzie Huxley-Jones
- 'Africa, Amazing Africa: Country by Country' - Atinuke (Geography)



Summer 2:

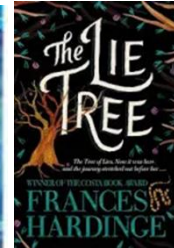
- 'The Explorer' - Katharine Rundell
- 'War Horse' - Michael Morpurgo
- 'The Girl of Ink and Stars' - Kiran Millwood Hargrave
- 'Diary of a Disciple: John's Story' - Gemma Willis (RE)
- 'You are Awesome' - Matthew Syed (PSD)



Year 8

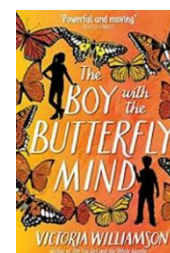
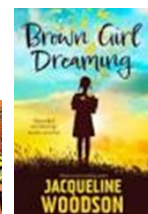
Autumn 1:

- 'Ghost' - Jason Reynolds
- 'Windrush Child' - Benjamin Zephaniah
- 'The Lie Tree' - Francis Hardinge
- 'This Book will Cool the Climate' (Geography)
- 'Looking after your Mental Health' - Alice James (PSD)



Autumn 2:

- 'A Wrinkle in Time' - Madeleine L'Engle
- 'Boy Giant' - Michael Morpurgo
- 'Brown Girl Dreaming' - Jacqueline Woodson





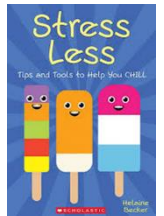
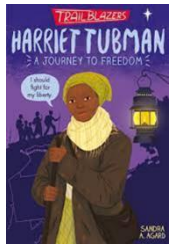
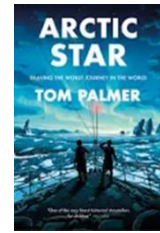
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'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'

- 'The Boy with the Butterfly Mind' - Victoria Williamson
- 'Harriet Tubman: A Journey to Freedom' (History)

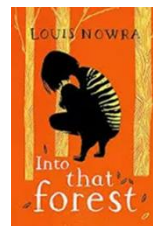
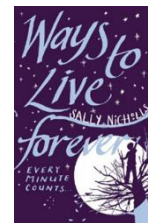
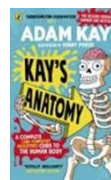
Spring 1:

- 'Black Beauty' - Anna Sewell
- 'Arctic Star' - Tom Palmer
- 'Little Women' - Louisa May Alcott
- 'Plastic Sucks' - Dougie Poynter (Geography)
- 'Stress Less' - Helaine Becker (PSD)



Spring 2:

- 'The Carpet People' - Terry Pratchett
- 'Ways to Live Forever' - Sally Nicholls
- 'Kay's Anatomy' - Adam Kay (Science)
- 'Wink' - Rob Harrell
- '1783: Freedom' - Catherine Johnson (History)



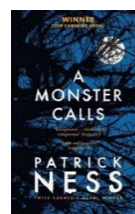
Summer 1:

- 'Into that Forest' - Louis Nowra
- 'A Good Day for Climbing Trees' - Jaco Jacobs
- 'The Call of the Wild' - Jack London
- 'Scorch Trials' - James Dashner (Geography)
- 'Silence is not an Option' - Stuart Lawrence (PSD)



Summer 2:

- 'The Weight of Water' - Sarah Crossan
- 'Skywake: Invasion' - Jamie Russell
- 'A Monster Calls' - Patrick Ness
- 'Asha and the Spirit Bird' - Jasbinder Bilan (RE)





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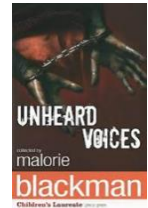
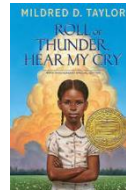
'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'

- 'Cyberspies'- Logan Macx

Year 9

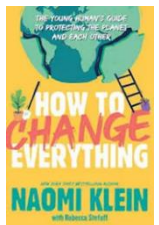
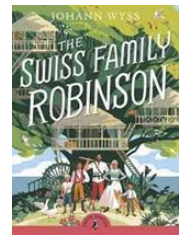
Autumn 1:

- 'Roll of Thunder, Hear Me Cry'- Mildred D.Taylor
- 'Oliver Twist'- Charles Dickens
- 'Unheard Voices'- Compiled by Malorie Blackman (History)
- 'No one is too Small to make a Difference'- Greta Thunberg (Geography)
- 'How Not to Lose it'- Anna Williamson (PSD)



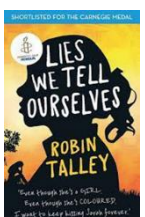
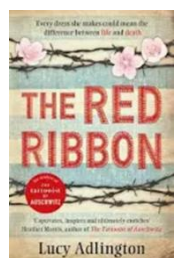
Autumn 2:

- 'Kensuke's Kingdom'- Michael Morpurgo
- 'The Swiss Family Robinson'- Johann David Wyss
- 'The Hate U Give'- Angie Thomas
- 'Diary of Anne Frank' (History)
- 'How to Change Everything'- Naomi Klein (Geography)



Spring 1:

- 'The Hobbit'- JRR Tolkien
- 'Foul Play'- Tom Palmer (PE)
- 'The Night Diary'- Veera Hiranandani (RE)
- 'The Red Ribbon'- Lucy Adlington (History)
- 'Paper Avalanche'- Lisa Williamson (PSD)



Spring 2:

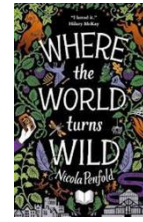
- 'Treasure Island'- Robert Louis Stevenson



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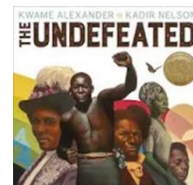
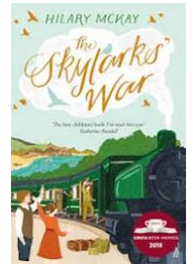
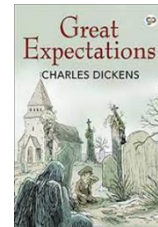
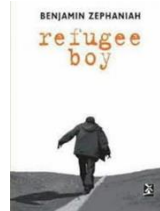
'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'

- 'My Sister Lives on the Mantlepiece'- Annabelle Pitcher
- 'Super Sub'- Alan Gibbons (PE)
- 'Lies we tell Ourselves'- Robin Talley (History)
- 'Where the World turns Wild'- Nicola Penfold (Geography)



Summer 1:

- 'Refugee Boy'- Benjamin Zephaniah
- 'Great Expectations'- Charles Dickens
- 'The Skylarks War'- Hilary McKay
- 'The Undefeated'- Kwame Alexander (RE)
- 'Yankee Girl'- Mary Ann Rodman (History)



Summer 2:

- '928 Miles from Home'- Kim Slater
- 'Dream On'- Bali Rai
- 'Make More Noise'- Various writers
- 'Young, Gifted and Black'- Various Writers (History)
- 'Exodus'- Julie Bertagna (Geography)

