

How to Promote Reading for Pleasure at Home

Reading is crucial for helping your child develop academically. It expands their vocabulary; develops their ability to express themselves; and broadens their knowledge and understanding of the world, people and cultures around them.

Try to encourage your child to read both fiction and non-fiction text and discuss these with them. If possible, try to have a variety of books available (non-fiction, short stories, illustrated biographies, modern poetry, simple play scripts). Teenagers often alternate between reading adult and children's books. In time, children will read different genres and authors.

You may want to read the novels they are studying at Colmers at the time they are studying them so that you can discuss their learning with them.

Some Top Tips to Encourage Reading

- Talk to your child about the kind of books they like.
- Show them a wide variety of materials, including non-fiction, books of jokes, poems and 'fun facts'.
- Identify the fiction genres that are popular, e.g. fantasy, science fiction and sports stories.
- Identify role models, including peers and celebrities, to promote reading.
- Use online materials to encourage reluctant readers to read
- Introduce new books, perhaps by reading the first page or two and then leaving your child to continue alone Read and discuss news articles with your child.
- Respect their own choice of reading, even if it seems 'too easy' or not an author that you would choose
- Join your local library and encourage your child to use it regularly
- Encourage your child to use the school library
- Encourage your child to take part in Readathons and reading challenges when they occur
- Praise children about their reading whenever you can.
- Ensure your child has a reading book that they are enjoying and reading regularly. Ask them about what they are reading and discuss it with them. Try questions such as: 'What are you reading at the moment?'; 'Are you enjoying it?'; 'Which character do you like/ dislike the most?'; 'Do you think I'd like it?'...
- Read newspaper articles with your child (the BBC news website is a good place to start) and discuss them.
- Watch the news/ Newsround with your child (available online) and discuss the stories with your child.
- Listen to audiobooks with your child (many available on YouTube) and discuss them. You can pick books based on librarians' recommendations/ good read lists etc.
- Use graphic novels, manga material and other illustrated books.
- It can help if children see their parents and other family members reading, and if there are books or other reading materials available at home.

- Encourage your child to write for pleasure: creative, reflective, blogs, film reviews etc. Anything they would enjoy.
- Write with your child – you or another family member could complete a writing for pleasure task when they do and compare your texts.
- Discuss proof reading of texts with your child. If you can, encourage your child to read their writing aloud to you.
- BBC Bitesize KS3 English is a highly useful website that can support greatly with literacy.

We know books can be expensive – that is why we would recommend the use of the school library and your local library. Many texts can also be found for free on-line (useful links for these can be found on the main reading page of our website). Community libraries (where people can donate and take books for free) are also becoming increasingly popular – many supermarkets have one located near to the entrance for example. Charity shops can also often be a source of affordable books.

If you would like any further advice or suggestions on how to encourage your child to read, please speak to your child's English teacher; Ms Drennan (School Librarian) or Mrs Williams (Reading Champion).