



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

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Dear Parent / Carer

I write to inform you of literacy initiatives we are undertaking to support your child's learning in English.

At Ecclesbourne, your child's English curriculum supports the development of their literacy. Evidence shows that students who can read, write and communicate effectively are more successful in achieving success in their subjects across the curriculum.

Your child's literacy will be developed in English lessons through the termly schemes of learning. Reading, specifically, will be supported via the activities below.

Personal Independent Reading

- We promote a 'reading rich curriculum'. Your child has access to a well – stocked school library which they are welcome to visit before school, at break or at lunchtime. If you feel that your child would benefit from support in selecting a book to read, please email me at the address below and I will ensure they are given 1:1 support with this process.
- Each of your child's Key Stage Three English lessons begins with ten minutes of personal independent reading. This means that your child is completing approximately thirty minutes of independent reading per week. During this time, teachers will discuss book choices one – to – one with students and offer advice and support regarding suitable book suggestions. As a parent or carer, you can support this process by ensuring that they have a suitable book packed for school and by chatting to them about what they are reading during lessons.
- We run a Lower School book group. Key Stage Three are welcome to attend 'Books and Biscuits' on a Monday lunchtime in the library. If this activity appeals to your child, please advise them to speak to their English teacher.

Vocabulary Acquisition

- Promoting understanding of key vocabulary is embedded into each of our Key Stage Three schemes of learning.

Reading Accuracy

- During Key Stage Three, your child will complete a weekly piece of 'Accountable Reading' homework. This requires students to read an article closely. This process has been modelled to them in lessons. This homework is followed up by a short weekly knowledge check activity. This is designed to check that your child is reading carefully and has understood what they have read. It would be helpful if you could read and discuss this text with your child. Ask them to define tricky vocab and pose them questions to check reading comprehension.

Whilst it is a delight to see many of our students taking joy from their reading, we realise that this is not the case for every child. For those who find it challenging to read for pleasure alone, we encourage them to view it as a life skill that will open the door to future success. Engagement in the activities outlined above support learning in both English lessons and the wider curriculum.

If your son or daughter is a little more reluctant to pick up a book, some of the strategies below can be helpful.

- As far as possible, try to establish a regular pattern of reading. If your child has regular homework time, could reading for fifteen minutes be incorporated into this time, or might 'wind down time' with a book before bed be an option?
- The diet of reading can be fiction or non – fiction. For some, reading about a favourite sporting star or musician can be more enticing than reading a 'made up' story.
- Graphic novels are currently very popular. Some young people find this an engaging new genre. We have a number in the school library.
- Some young people find reading more enticing if they can read on devices such as E – readers or Kindles. If your child wishes to read on such a device, we recommend setting parental controls to safeguard them from viewing unwanted content.
- 'Shared reading' can be very effective. Sharing the reading of a text can model 'how it should sound' to a young person. It also offers the opportunity to discuss the text. Asking your child questions about what they have read can also encourage them to read with more purpose.
- Some books have films and audio versions available. These can be very useful for supporting or rewarding reading.

Some book recommendations can be found here:

[Year 7 books - a recommended reading list for 11 year olds](#)

[Year 8 books - a recommended reading list for 12 year olds](#)

In supporting your child's literacy, we work in partnership with the Learning Support Department to offer a comprehensive programme of help and intervention. We will be in touch, should we consider this beneficial for your child.

If you have any questions regarding information shared in this letter, or would like to discuss your child's reading further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With kind regards,



Annie Bell
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