

Parental engagement - Literacy



(World Book Day celebrations across the years...)



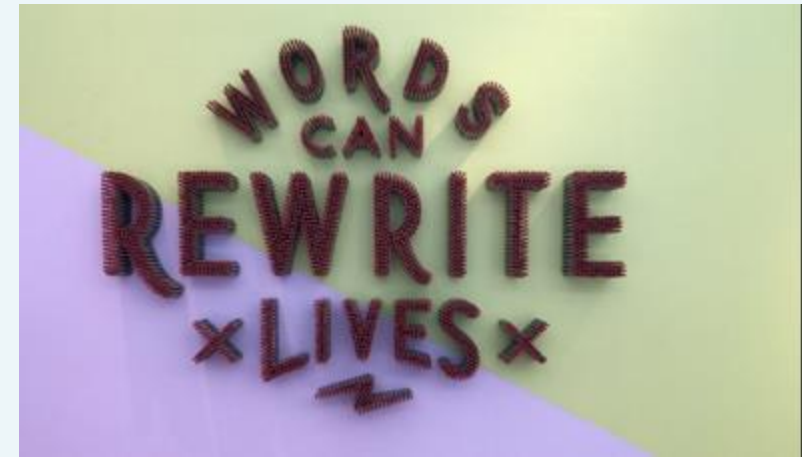
Miss Scarth- English teacher and Literacy Coordinator at Halewood Academy



Supporting your child's literacy

The Importance of Literacy

- Adolescents entering the adult world in the 21st century will read and write more than at any other time in human history.
- They will need advanced levels of literacy to perform their jobs, run their households, act as citizens, and conduct their personal lives.
- They will need literacy to cope with the flood of information they will find everywhere they turn.
- They will need literacy to feed their imaginations so they can create the world of the future. In a complex and sometimes even dangerous world, their ability to read will be crucial.



Why not watch this short video of Hollywood actor and **Project Literacy** ambassador, Idris Elba, talking about the 'IlliteraCity' initiative?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f69lvupti6A>



What is literacy?



- Literacy is the ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.

It is a life skill which reaps benefits far beyond those of secondary school English studies. It is responsibility of all of us to ensure that the younger generation have the literacy skills needed to increase their life chances and to contribute positively to society as a whole.



Literacy skills are what enable us to participate in the world and have an input in decisions which can have an enormous impact on our lives or the lives of our loved ones.

Without literacy, we do not have the verbal or written communication skills needed to exercise our right to vote, to question any wrongdoing and make informed decisions. We have a responsibility to ourselves to make sure we have the literacy skills needed to be able to see past any information intended to manipulate or mislead us, to interpret what is true from what is false. These skills are our means of defence and individual expression in a world where we are constantly bombarded with a multitude of information.

To be literate is to be 'clued up' on the things that really do matter.





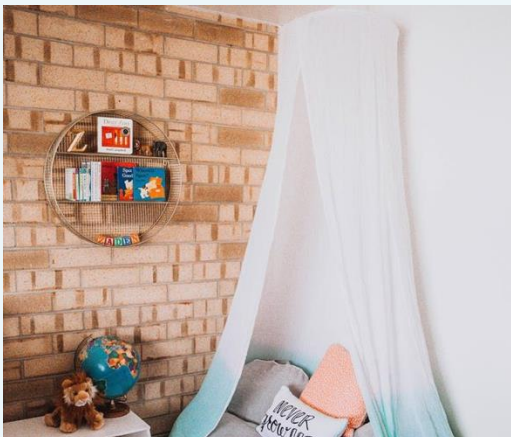
In addition to this, literacy skills are key factors desired by employers. They are needed in order to access the wealth of information available in our heavily text based, technology based society. Statistically higher literacy skills can also mean an increased salary and increased chance of social mobility in the future.

Investing in the futures of our young people is a goal shared by parents and teachers alike.

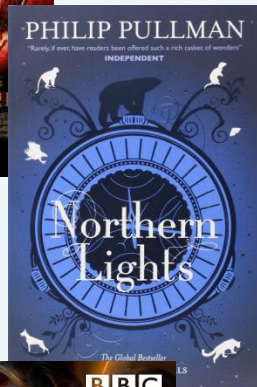
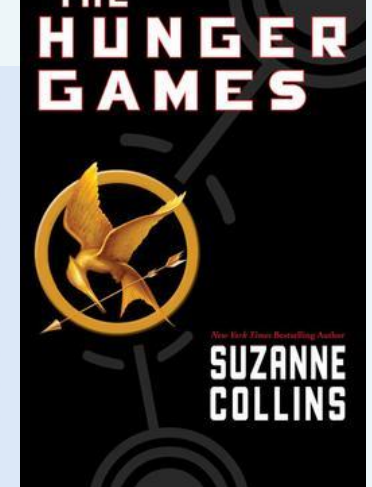


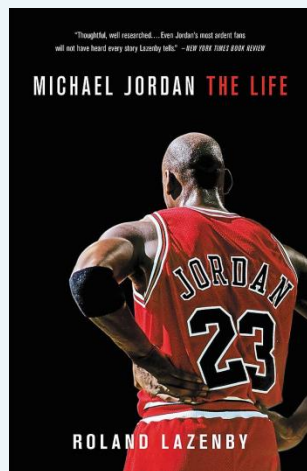
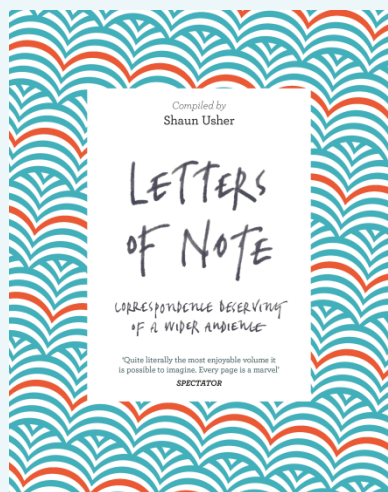
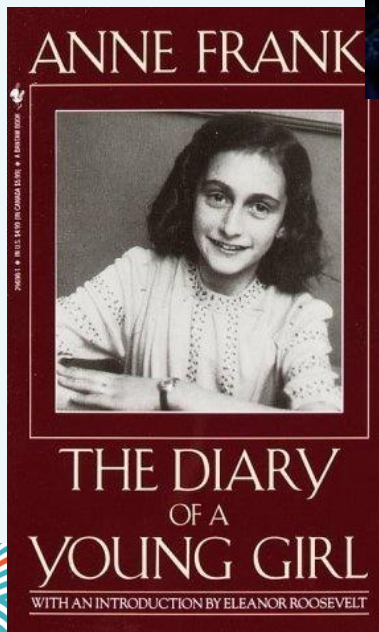
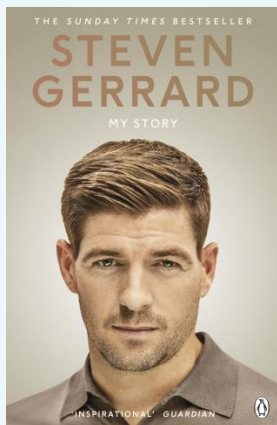
Creating a 'reading culture' at home....





- ✔ Show your teenager that it is as much fun to read a book as it is to watch TV or play on the computer.
- ✔ Create a quiet, well-lit space in your home to encourage reading.
- ✔ Make sure that your home contains books that will interest your teenager.
- ✔ Encourage your teenager to read magazines, newspapers or the sports guide. Leave them around your home. It doesn't really matter what your child reads as long as they read!
- ✔ Subscribe to a magazine that your teenager has an interest in.
- ✔ Share articles you've read from the newspaper or a magazine, especially if it's something your teenager is interested in. Sunday supplements are particularly good.
- ✔ Play audio books in the car. This will encourage reading for enjoyment.
- ✔ Recommend adult-themed books that would be appropriate.
- ✔ Link books and reading to films at the cinema or video games they know.
- ✔ Introduce books which are part of a series, and biographies.
- ✔ Ask teenagers to recommend books for younger readers in the family.
- ✔ Make use of e-books and e-book readers such as Kindles.





SUMMER READING BINGO

As you complete each task, record the title and date for the book you read. Which column, row or diagonal will you finish first? Can you fill the entire card?

Read a book that has been made into a MOVIE	SWAP: Read a book with a FRIEND	Read a GRAPHIC NOVEL or COMIC BOOK	Read a book with a ONE WORD TITLE	Read a NON-FICTION book
READ ALOUD to someone else	Read a book that makes you LAUGH	Read in BED	Read a book by your FAVORITE AUTHOR	Listen to an AUDIO STORY
Read a book based on a TRUE STORY	SWAP: FROTHER about what you read today	Read a book PUBLISHED this YEAR	Read OR UNDER a TREE	Read an ADVENTURE story
Read a book about a HISTORIC event	Read your BEST FRIEND'S favorite book	Read a book with an ANIMAL on the cover	RECORD an AUDIO STORY of your reading	Read a book about something SCIENTIFIC
Read a book with a NUMBER in the TITLE	Read a MAGAZINE about a topic of interest	Read a book while EATING a SNACK	CREATE a picture of your ALL-TIME favorite character	Read a book by a NEW TO-YOU writer
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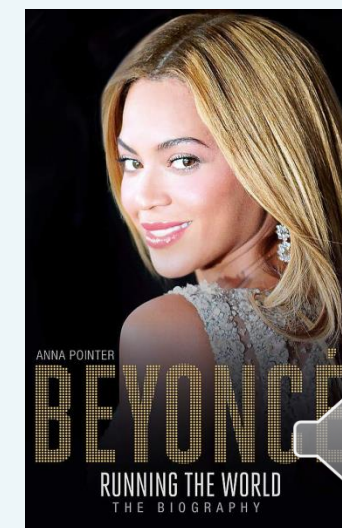
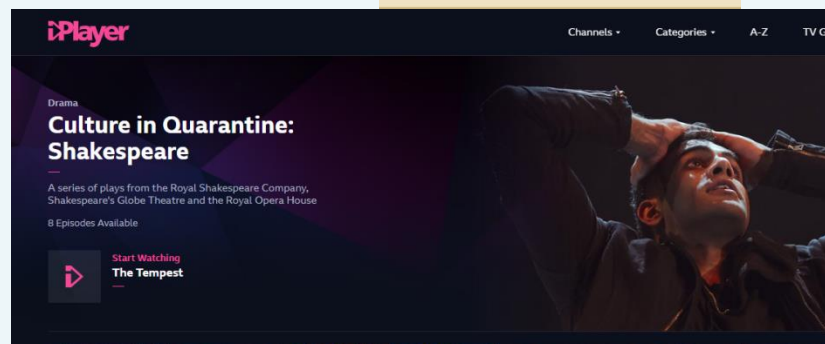
Read more activities for children at children.computerhistory.org/parents



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Learning at home



Useful sites:

- https://literacytrust.org.uk/?gclid=CjwKCAjwxev3BRBBEiwAiB_PWBETBDHb4POcbFjKB03cFUaA2xOAy3_aZBH64iBL_JK-oeZ7LDnNBBoCzKYQAvD_BwE (literacy advice and support for parents and students)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zt3rkqt> (English/literacy based activities and help for students, interactive tasks)
- <https://theday.co.uk/> (free online newspaper with comprehension tasks, links to current affairs)
- https://www.ted.com/recommends?gclid=CjwKCAjwxev3BRBBEiwAiB_PWEmM6VD-k_Rp3kg4ujoi7P5YC2ZW6ryG7u6ahsX8OfnQ-7ml7V56rBoCKmwQAvD_BwE (Ted Talks, find a talk on a subject of your choice which will interest your child)
- <https://www.gutenberg.org/> (free access to a huge selection of online copies of books)



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How to encourage your child to read

Read yourself! Show a good example by talking about the reading you do at work and at home. Let your child know that reading is an important part of your life.

Keep books safe. Make your child their own special place to keep their books in their bedroom.

Visit your library – it's free to join! As well as taking out story books, use visits to the library as a time to find books and CD ROMs about your child's hobbies and interests.

Make time to read. Set aside a time for reading for the family – after school or before bedtime. Encourage independent reading but don't be afraid to still tell a bedtime story.

Don't just read books. Encourage your child to read newspapers, TV guides, comics and magazines. Ask your child to find out information from the Yellow Pages, the Internet, cookery books, etc.

Let your child read with younger children. Encourage them to read to other members of the family.

Keep in touch with school. Make sure your child swaps their home reading books regularly at school and try to make a regular time slot of about 10 minutes to hear them read.

If English is not your family's first language: You can buy dual language books. You can talk about books and stories in any language.

7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'



Why is reading so important? What difference could I make?

- Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only **perform better academically** than their peers who don't, but also **develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge** and **better understanding of the world around them**.
- Parents or carers are by far the most important educators in a child's life and have a huge influence on their habits, interests and attitudes. Fostering a love of reading at home and maintaining this throughout your child's education will mean that they develop the confidence to become independent readers – better enabling them to research and revise effectively for all their subjects and to develop many number of other transferable skills.
- Through listening to adults reading aloud to them from an early age, children are exposed to a rich and wide vocabulary. This helps them to develop their understanding of how words sound and as a result increases their confidence in using spoken and written language.
- You can play an essential role in ensuring that your child recognises the value and importance of reading in helping them to develop skills that will be hugely beneficial in the future.



How could I read to my child? How often?

- As you read to your child, bring the characters to life – talk about your opinions on the characters, discuss pictures and key events of the story as well as predictions.
- Don't be afraid to try out different voices – while you may not win an Oscar, your child will appreciate this and find it more engaging if it seems you are invested in reading.
- Remember – your face says it all. If you look bored, they will be too. Times your enthusiasm by three or four.
- Emphasise repeated words or phrases.
- Turn off music or the TV and put phones to one side so you can both concentrate on the reading without distractions. Set a clear time limit which is reasonable.
- Try audiobooks to help with voices and sound effects.

- In terms of how often, be led by how long your child can concentrate and build up from there. Try to establish a routine (this could be 10 minutes before bed or after tea)
- If you come across a word you don't know while reading, model how you solve this problem using a dictionary or online thesaurus. This shows them to not let unfamiliar vocabulary knock their confidence.



What if my child doesn't enjoy reading? My child is 'switching off' when reading

- Make sure your child isn't hungry, tired, distracted or desperate to watch their favourite TV programme when you want to read with them. Set aside some time each day to read with them about a subject that interests them.
- For many children as they get older, non-fiction books are more appealing than fiction. Try to vary the type of books you are reading so they can find something that appeals to them.
- Give plenty of praise. Let them know how pleased you are to see them reading and show an interest in the book they have chosen/ask them questions.
- Role models are hugely important – make sure your child can see you taking time to read regularly.
- Have a reward system or competition based on how long they read for or how much they read – maybe a points chart?
- Make sure they have somewhere quiet where they can focus without their phone or game console distracting them.



Overall....

It is all of our priorities to make sure we are doing everything we can to support your child in fulfilling his or her potential and building successful foundations for his or her future.

We have to work together both in school and at home if we are going to stand the best chance at this!

You can make a **huge** difference to your child's life by investing some time into modelling good reading and taking the time to read with them regularly.

If you show an interest, they will likely inherit this interest and this will have lifelong benefits for them.



The **more** that you read, the **more** things you will know. The **more** that you learn, the **more** places you'll go.

Dr. Seuss

Daily Quotes// talgroup.net

