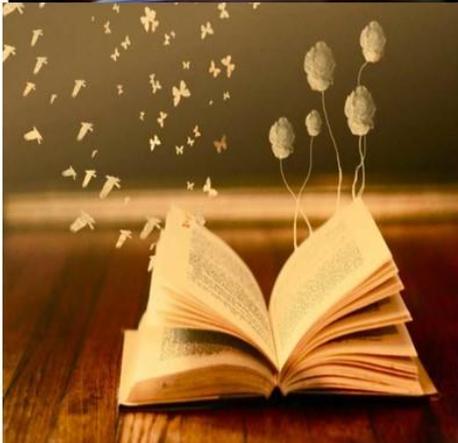


# The Importance of Reading at St Crispin's



## Why focus on Reading?

Research shows that reading has benefits in many areas of education and life. In addition to the obvious benefit on reading comprehension and attainment, it also impacts upon:

- ✓ Vocabulary
- ✓ Understanding of grammar
- ✓ Spelling skill
- ✓ Writing attainment
- ✓ Attitudes to reading and writing
- ✓ Knowledge and understanding of the world and other people
- ✓ Achievement in other subjects, including maths
- ✓ Empathy and understanding of emotions
- ✓ Development of our sense of 'self' and identity

## The Importance and Benefits of Reading

Research shows that reading helps to improve vocabulary, communication skills and also makes us better writers. We all need these skills in life and in our workplace. Consider talking to your child about when you use these skills in your own life and work.

The increase in screen-time and social media has been shown to have decreased our focus and concentration levels as people are so used to flicking between apps and scrolling through various websites. Reading can help counter this by providing one thing to focus on.

Did you know that reading has been proven to reduce stress? In today's world, helping our children with this is so important. If you'd like support choosing a book for your child, do get in touch with the librarian or visit a website such as [www.bookheads.org.uk](http://www.bookheads.org.uk)

Did you know that research shows children who read for pleasure achieve better, regardless of whether their reading material of choice is a novel or magazine? Please do encourage your child to read a variety of texts that they are interested in.

Did you know research shows that a child who reads/is read to for 5 minutes a day will expose them to around 400,000 words a year? Increasing that to 21 minutes exposes them to 1,823,000 words a year. 40 minutes results in 3,646,000 words a year.

## Ways to Encourage Reading



Research shows that parents have an important role to play in developing a love of reading. One way you can help with this is to explore different texts with your child: magazines, blog posts, novels, online articles.



Did you know that parents who talk to their children about books, TV programmes and films help their child to develop an interest in reading? Consider when might be a good time in your day/week to ask your child about what they've watched or read recently.



Having books, magazines and other texts at home makes a difference to children's interest in reading and their achievement. Exploring your local library is a great way to bring new texts into the home at no cost to you and it allows your child to encounter a variety of text types.



None of us like everything we read; it's important for us to be open about that with our children. We can help them to find texts they're interested in by talking about the passions, their hobbies and what they're interested in doing in the future.



You are probably aware that research shows reading is a key factor for academic success. But did you know that this could be the reading of fiction or non-fiction? Many students prefer reading non-fiction, such as autobiographies, magazine articles or blog posts.



Reading isn't confined to the pages of a book. Remember that when your child reads the internet, instructions, recipes etc. they are still reading – in fact they're reading purposefully.



Are your family members of Wokingham Library? By joining, you can have access not only to a variety of books, but also audiobooks, DVDs and magazines.



At secondary school, students read many different text types from different time periods and about different topics. These could be scientific instructions, newspaper articles, adverts, poems and much more. Have you asked them which they prefer and why?



How does your child learn new vocabulary for their subjects? You could ask them about what strategies they could be using and offer to support them with this at home.



Reading the text that your child is studying in English can be a great way to discuss characters, plot lines and themes together to support your child at home. Interpretation is an important skill for students to develop and talking about your thoughts with your child can help them with this.



Reading isn't just important for English lessons; it's important for every subject. If you know your child is interested in a particular subject or topic area, you could find articles about this to share with them and ask their view on what they've read.



If you have a computer at home, you could set the homepage to a website your child might be interested in. For example, a website about jazz music, race cars or kite boarding. You could ask them about what they've read or even read some together.





Have you seen the 'Turn the Subtitles On' campaign? Research shows that turning the subtitles on the TV can have a significant impact on young people's reading skills.



If you think your child is struggling with reading, please feel free to contact the school via Mrs Sharma, who is leading on reading at St Crispin's [sharmak@crispins.co.uk](mailto:sharmak@crispins.co.uk) we are more than happy to help.



Some parents worry that their child likes re-reading a particular book or author. Although reading a variety of texts and authors is important, reading similar styles can help to increase students' confidence with reading. Perhaps you could talk to the librarian to find similar books by different authors?



If you'd like to help your child select a book to read, you could speak to the librarian about their interests so that they could recommend a book based on that or wander round a book shop and read the back of a selection of books to see what captures their interest.



If you're looking for book suggestions, you may like to explore [www.bookheads.org.uk](http://www.bookheads.org.uk) for booklists, or visit a site like [www.barringtonstoke.co.uk](http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk) which produces books for reluctant, under-confident and dyslexic readers.

## The Use of Audio Books



Research has found that audiobooks can improve children's reading skills and enjoyment of reading as well as their mental wellbeing. If your child is reluctant to read a book, you could offer them an audiobook. These are available online or through the library.



Did you know that half of young people have said that listening to audiobooks has increased their interest in reading? Audiobooks are readily available online through platforms such as Audible. Alternatively, you can borrow some through the library.



## Reading at St Crispin's



We will be using tutor times twice a week for tutor time reading. The whole form will read the same book. They will be read the book by their tutor and they will be asked to listen and follow in their own copies of the text. Research shows that this helps students with reading fluency and pronunciation.



Students will have access to an internet-based software called Accelerated Reader (AR). This package uses reading age to suggest books that match pupils' needs (in other words, checks they are reading books that are not too easy and that will challenge them) and perhaps more critically matches their specific interests. All books in our library have been re-categorised to help students pick the right books for their reading ability. Pupils take computerised quizzes on the books and earn points as they progress, which are rewarded in school. Research supports the benefits of this reading programme. The study found that Year 7 pupils who were offered Accelerated Reader made three months additional progress in reading compared to other similar pupils.



Please do encourage them to do quizzes regularly on books they have read. At school we will be encouraging them to complete a minimum of one quiz every half term. Every book they read will contribute to their progress to become word millionaires. We will also be looking for students to become reading ambassadors within school.



In English lessons students will be doing a fortnightly Accelerated Reader lesson where they will be able to visit the library and do some guided reading sessions with their teachers. In addition they will be set a weekly reading homework to read for a minimum of 30 minutes a week, as said earlier, the real benefits of reading come from reading for at least twenty minutes each day. We will be asking for your help with this by signing their reading diaries once a week to show that they have been reading regularly at home too.

