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Dear Parent /Carer

Bradfield School is a reading school committed to raising attainment through the power of reading. Reading is something we do every day and take for granted: it is the single most effective way of helping your child to succeed in every subject in school.

I was appointed new to the school in September as Lead Practitioner for English, part of my role is to encourage and support our students to read. Reading isn't just about being able to read fluently its about understanding what you're reading and knowing how to use those skills in all areas of the school curriculum.

Some of you will be aware that we have been testing students across all years to help us to identify the way which we can support your child in the best possible way. Some students may go onto our Thinking Reading Programme where they will receive three intensive one to one thirty-minute sessions each week. Thinking Reading is new to the school and through the thorough testing it provides we work out and offer bespoke learning plans. The programme has significant impact on the reading and understanding levels of students, and this is evidenced by the results in one of our trust schools.

How can I support my child with reading?

Twenty minutes every day reading for pleasure has lots of advantages it supports your child to access the curriculum, and helps their health and wellbeing in the fast-moving gadget orientated world we live in. We have a growing number of students who visit the library during lunchtimes specifically to read and take time out to recharge their batteries and escape the hustle and bustle. If your child doesn't think they can manage to read for a full twenty minutes, it can be done in smaller chunks; once hooked by a book they will lose track of time if they enjoy what they are reading. Twenty minutes every day is equal to 1.8 million words in a year which is roughly equal to 18 books.

Everyone loves to be read to and reading to or with your child is valuable time spent together and increases fluency. Reading play scripts can be fun and increases motivation and entertainment. Cooking together is another way of reading without making it an onerous task. Audio books enable children to hear others read fluently.

I have included a copy of Key Stage Reading List to help you and your child find something which might interest them. Not all the books are available in the library it is a aid to help you and your child find the right fit. In school we use the principles of Reciprocal Reading and I have included this information to further support your child.

I hope that you have a lovely half term and enjoy spending some time with a book.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Verney  
Lead Practitioner for English