

TEACHING AND LEARNING GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

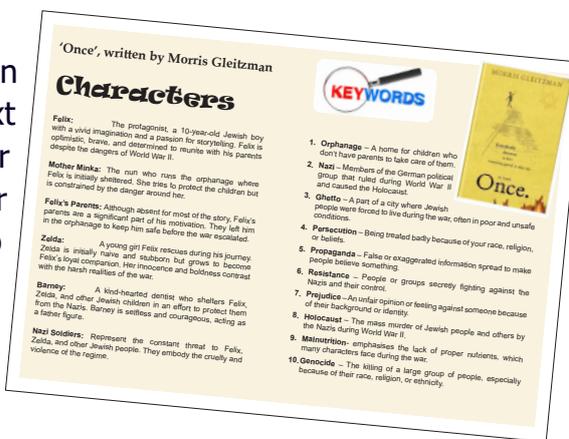
Welcome to our termly Learning Newsletter where we seek to share some of the initiatives and strategies we use in school so you might best support your child in their education in order to benefit your child and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

First Chapter Friday

We recently began an initiative called First Chapter Friday where we introduced pupils to a recommended book by reading the first chapter of a book to inspire and ignite interest.



After reading the chapter, children were asked questions about the text and then we recommended other reading by the same author and similar authors. We felt it was a good way to broaden experience and guide pupils to try something they may not have considered before. Feedback so far has been positive.



Reading Plus

In an earlier newsletter and throughout our weekly and termly magazines, we celebrate the achievements in Reading Plus.



All of Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils have a reading hour within their English curriculum where they use a laptop to read fiction and non-fiction texts that are personalised to their reading ability. The program gradually introduces new vocabulary and concepts and regularly checks for comprehension.

We have just completed the second assessment within Reading Plus and many pupils have made great progress. If your child is receiving some small group or individual support at the moment, it would be beneficial for them if they complete more reading at home.



Learning Newsletter
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Issue Focus: Reading

email l.cowell@priory.lancs.sch.uk
if you wish to discuss anything
covered in this newsletter

Ways to support extra reading at home

Supporting 11-14-year-olds with reading at home requires a mix of engaging strategies, resources, and encouragement. Here are some practical ways to help:

1. Make Reading Enjoyable

Choose high-interest, low-difficulty books. Look for books with engaging topics but simpler text, such as graphic novels, short stories, or books with illustrations.

Use audiobooks. Let them listen while following along with the text to improve fluency and comprehension.

Encourage real-world reading. Comics, magazines, recipe books, or game guides can be great alternatives.

2. Build Confidence

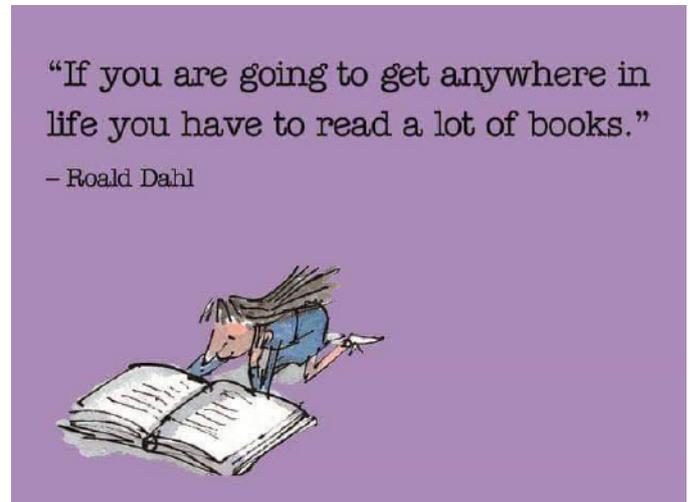
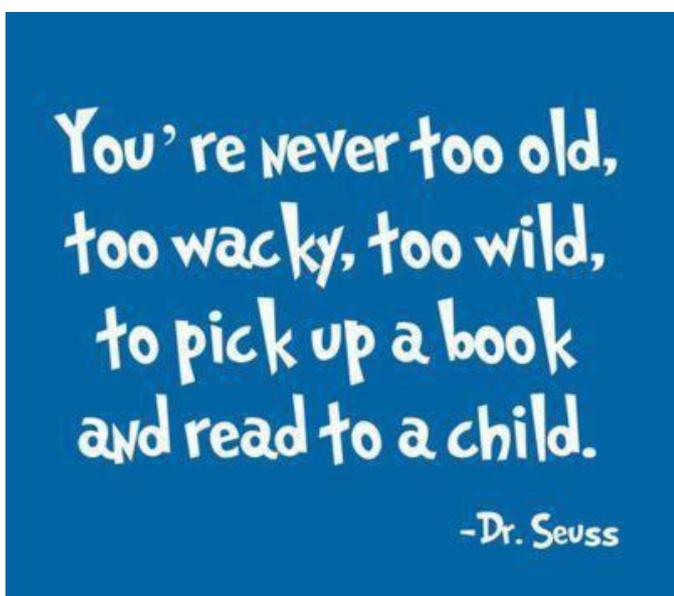
Read aloud together. Take turns reading, or do a shared reading where you read one page, and they read the next.

Praise efforts, not just accuracy. Celebrate progress, even if it's small.

Allow re-reading. Repeating familiar texts builds confidence and fluency.

3. Provide Structured Support

Use reading apps. Apps like Epic!, Reading Eggs, or Audible can make reading more interactive.



Break up reading into chunks. Shorter, frequent reading sessions work better than long ones.

Discuss what they read. Ask open-ended questions like, "What do you think will happen next?" to build comprehension.

4. Create a Reading-Friendly Environment

Have books easily accessible. Keep books in different places around the house.

Model reading. Let them see you reading for enjoyment.

Set a routine. A short reading session before bed can help build a habit.

5. Connect to Their Interests

Find books related to hobbies.

If they love football, try biographies of players or sports fiction.

Introduce series books. Once they like a character, they may want to keep reading.

Use multimedia. Watching a film adaptation of a book can spark interest in reading the original.

