



St Antony's
Roman Catholic School

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

2nd December 2022

Dear parents/carers,

As part of our ongoing work to raise the numbers of children reading in our school and community, I would like to update you on some events that are coming up, as well as providing some ideas on how you can support your child with reading at home.

Half-price books this Christmas

Firstly, on the final week of term, from Monday 12th December, we will have a Scholastic Book Fair in school, offering children the chance to buy books at half the marked price. This will be a brilliant opportunity for children to buy Christmas presents for themselves, friends or siblings. While we understand that families are budgeting this Christmas, this gives children the opportunity to buy books at half the market price. Children are being asked to bring the price of books into school on the last week of this term, to allow them to buy the half-price books. Pupils will be able to purchase books from as little as £2.50.

Reading at St Antony's

Reading is at the core of every subject, as well as most aspects of the careers that our young people will pursue. We need to make sure that they are exposed to as many opportunities to read as possible. As well as organising more events like the Scholastic Book Fair, to support this at St Antony's:

- We have invested in over £1,000 worth of new books for our reading room, with lots more to come. Pupils will be given the chance to suggest books and genres.
- All Year 7 pupils have ordered a free book of their choice through Bookbuzz, an initiative that supports literacy and reading in our school.
- The English Department have created Key Stage 3 and 4 Reading journeys that complement the learning in curriculum time.
- We test and monitor reading ages of all pupils, with more frequent testing for developing readers and those being supported by tutors.
- We support our developing readers with reciprocal reading intervention groups 2-3 mornings a week, either in form, or in a small group with a member of staff.
- We provide small-group support for our more vulnerable readers, to boost their confidence.

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- We have now invested in Fresh Start Phonics, aimed at supporting emerging readers of secondary level age. We have trained staff in place to deliver this training, to help pupils develop their reading skills in staggered and appropriate modules.
- Curriculum Leaders are adapting their planning to ensure that reading materials are linked to pupils' learning and specific subject terminology is highlighted and explicit in topic guides.
- All teachers are expected to support pupils' literacy and interest in reading through recommendations, guidance and support with literacy across all subjects.
- We are creating a St Antony's Canon of Literature, that we will launch in the New Year.

How you can help

As parents, your support is invaluable. We know that the move to secondary school leads to less stringent monitoring of reading diaries on a weekly basis, but pupils should still be reading at home. We know that this is a challenge at times, but you may get some ideas for books here:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/b/best-books-for-teens-teen/>

Below are some other links to help direct you to other helpful information and resources.

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents?nt=t>

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/>

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/parent-support/>

Kind regards,

S Durham

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