September 2024

Dear Y7 parents/carers,

I hope that you and your child have enjoyed the start to Year 7 and that they have settled in well. I am writing to you to share some aspects of our approach to reading and literacy, to ensure that you and your child understand how important reading is to your child’s progress and success.

During form time, tutors have emphasised the importance of reading and literacy to your child. We know that there is a direct link between children who read regularly and often and their outcomes at GCSE, as well as success in life overall. For this reason, reading has been prioritised as a golden thread in St Antony’s and we have invested very heavily in books and literacy strategies. From *The Gruffalo* to *Great Expectations*, we want your child to read confidently and comfortably, with the hope that all children can enjoy some aspects of reading.

However, we know that reading is not enjoyable for all children. We have a literacy support strategy that builds children’s reading ability through Fresh Start Phonics where needed, as well as reading time three times a week and other rewards initiatives such as *Bookflix*. We will be conducting reading age tests with all Year 7 pupils and will identify where additional support may be needed. Some of this is already underway, based on KS2 data. We will also be recruiting more reading ambassadors to help with our library, offering free books, holding a Scholastic Book Fair and much more this term.

We need your support, as we will be providing your child with a reading diary for them to record their reading, which will need to be signed every Friday by parents, for a check on Monday in form time. **This will begin from Friday 13th September.**

In summary:

* In Year 7, we expect **all** children to read **every** night
* This can be independently or to an adult
* The children need to record what they read in their reading journal
* Reading journals need to be signed by an adult at the weekend
* Reading journals will be checked every **Monday** by the form teachers

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support and we hope that your child has enjoyed their first few weeks in St Antony’s. If you have any questions related to literacy or reading, please contact the school via form tutors and I will support where needed.

Kind regards,

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Mr Durham

Assistant Headteacher for Curriculum

Additional support available from the National Literacy Trust here: [Activities for 9-12 years | Words for Life](https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/filter/?age=9-12)