



12th January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

READING TESTS START THIS WEEK

As the new term begins, I write to inform you that the year 7 and 8 pupils have important reading-age testing taking place this week and next. These tests enable us to measure the progress that your child has made in their reading ability and to assess whether they need any extra support as they move further up through the school. The pupils will be tested in their English lessons (Year 8) and Accelerated Reader lessons (year 7). Please communicate this to your child and stress the importance of their full participation. The results will be available on the Go4Schools website before half term. Pupils may bring in and use their own headphones for these tests if they wish.

REWARDS FOR LITERACY PROGRESS

In addition to offering pupils extra support, the results of these reading-age tests will be used as the basis for a series of awards this term. Pupils will be awarded with special badges, certificates and vouchers in acknowledgment of their achievements in literacy: for example, those who have made excellent progress in the Accelerated Reader programme by reading and quizzing regularly, and those who have made exceptional progress in their reading age. These awards will be given out in our year-group Success Assemblies which take place in February.

READ FOR SUCCESS: READING AT HOME FOR 20 MINUTES A DAY

As you know, literacy skills and independent reading are very important to every child's success across all subjects. In school, we provide time for pupils to read during registration and weekly Drop Everything and Read sessions, as well as offering a range of books for loan from our new library. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of encouraging your child to read at home. Our recommended reading lists are available for guidance on our school website (under 'Literacy News'). Please take time to choose books with your child that will interest them and encourage them to read for at least 20 minutes a day. If possible, listen to your child read aloud or even read to them, or encourage other members of the family to do so: this is helpful at any age, but particularly if your child is an unwilling or struggling reader.

Many thanks for your support and please get in touch with any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Ms A Hartley
Lead Practitioner (Literacy)

