



Our ref: SCA/mhn/off/wholeschool/Readingbooks

11th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Reading Book

I hope you are well and that the return to normality isn't impeding any fond memories of the summer holidays.

In previous years, students in Year 7 and Year 8 were set weekly reading homework on Sparx Reader. Following an extensive evaluation, we are no longer continuing with this platform. We have factored in data from the platform and sought student voice to consider how best to drive a love of reading in 26/27, and it is clear that a return to a model of reading physical books will be the best route to achieve this outcome. Consequently, we've introduced the new school policy of students in all Year groups always having their own reading book with them, in a plastic wallet that also contains their reading journal.

It was a real pleasure to visit tutor rooms this Wednesday and Thursday and to see such a wide range of texts being enthusiastically read by our students and form tutors, with Years 12 and 13 focusing on super-curricular reading to prepare them for next steps.

Last term I asked parents what they would be reading over the summer holidays and I wanted to let you know some of the texts chosen.

- "On Cats: An Anthology", edited by Margaret Atwood
- "The Light Eaters" by Zoe Schlanger
- "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde
- "Red Rising" by Pierce Brown
- "The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman
- "Astrophysics for People in a Hurry" by Neil DeGrasse Tyson
- "The Fellowship of the Ring" by JRR Tolkien
- "This Thing of Darkness" by Harry Thompson
- "Freakonomics" by Levitt and Dubner
- "The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole" by Sue Townsend
- "The Summer My Wishes Came True" by Radhika Sanghani
- "The Naturals" by J L Barnes
- The Elena Ferrante Neapolitan Quartet
- "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding



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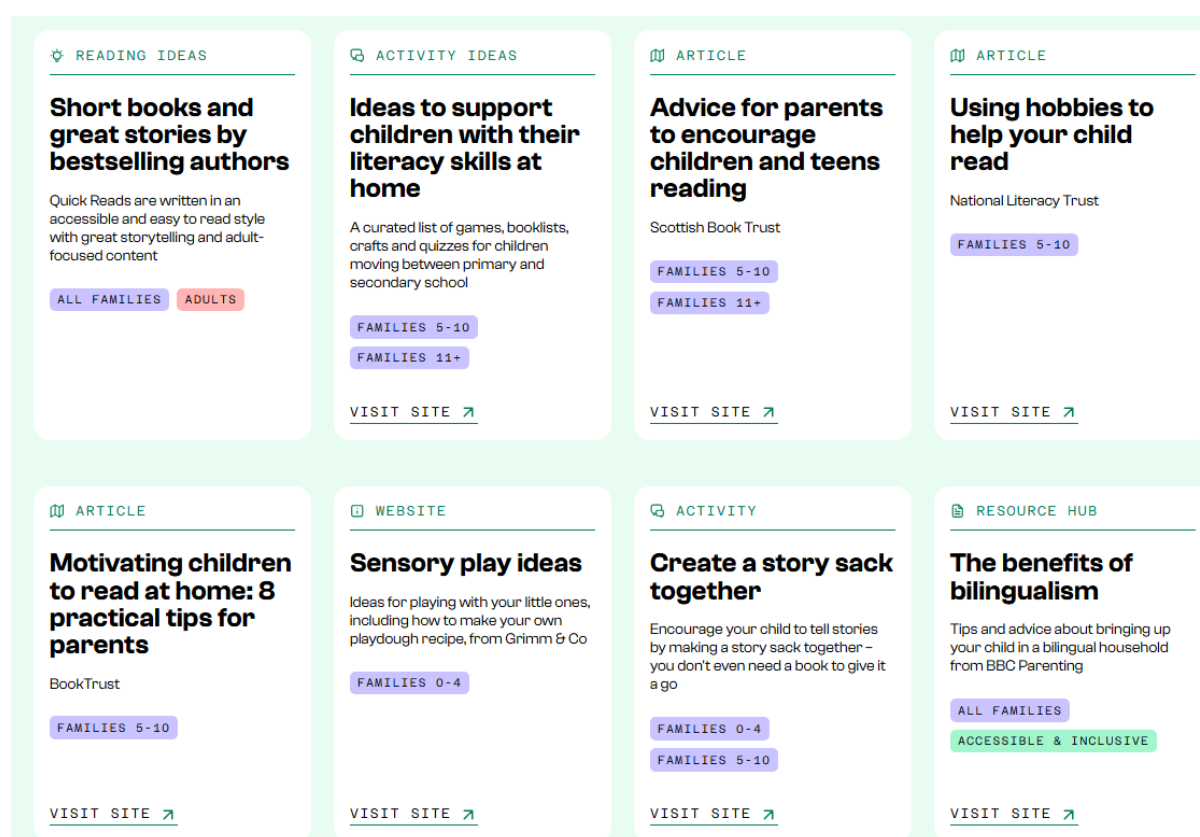


Cont'd...

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- "Black and British" by David Olusoga
- The "Twilight" series
- "Animal Farm" by George Orwell
- "The Night We Met" by Abby Jiminez

It's wonderful for our students to know that we all read. We may not be interested in the same topics, but reading is how we 'Go All In' to read about our world. 'Go All In' is the tagline of the National Year of Reading 2026, which continues until the end of the calendar year. There are lots of [resources](#) available on their website for parents to support their children with reading and other literacy skills at home.



I look forward to many bookish conversations with you.

Yours sincerely
Ms S Alexander
Leader of Literacy Across the Curriculum



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