



Supporting your Child in Reading

19th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you and your families are well. Here at St Mary's we recognise the importance of developing reading not only in terms of a child's academic progress, but also in a holistic sense, as we know the lifelong pleasure that reading can bring. Because of this, we wanted to make you aware of a number of things we are doing in school to support Y7 students with their reading.

Over the next fortnight, all Year 7 students will sit a reading test, called the NGRT, in their Computing lessons. The test is done on a computer and assesses a number of aspects of reading. Students are not expected to revise or prepare for this test, but it is important that they try their best in order to give us an accurate picture of their reading ability. Following this test, we will analyse the results, together with other data, to identify if any students require further support in their reading.

We have a tiered system of reading intervention in place which allows us to offer effective targeted support at an appropriate level for any children who need it. The three tiers in this system are:

- **Fresh Start:** This is a phonics based programme for students who require further support in phonics, and is delivered by trained staff from our SEND department.
- **IDL:** This is a computer based reading programme which boosts students' reading and spelling abilities.
- **Registration Reading:** This is where students undertake paired reading in the library with trained mentors from our Sixth Form.

If we determine that your child should be placed on one of these programmes, we will be in touch in due course with more information.

Another way in which your child can develop their reading is through making use of our excellent school library. This term, Y7 students will visit the library during some of their English lessons to receive an induction from our school librarian Dr Richardson, who will inform them about the different opportunities and resources available to them in the library, as well as explaining how to borrow books. He can also provide reading recommendations and study skills advice to students. Please encourage your child to visit the school library and make use of this excellent resource.

We look forward to communicating to you many further ways in which we will support your child's reading as they move through the school year. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Clough

Assistant Headteacher

Laura Mullan

Assistant Headteacher