

Dear families,

Reading is an essential part of school life. Through reading, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Reading also enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know. The National Curriculum states that all the skills of language are essential to participating fully as a member of society; pupils who do not learn to read fluently and confidently are at a disadvantage.

In our academies, we teach daily reading lessons to develop fluency and comprehension skills, but also deepen this learning through cross-curricular links in other subjects. Our aim is to promote and raise the profile of reading for pleasure, as well as highlighting the importance of reading: without sound reading skills, other areas of the curriculum can become inaccessible.

At home, the expectation is that pupils read their home reading book **three times a week** for at least 15 minutes each time. This should be **signed in their homework planners by an adult**. Planners will be checked on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday**. Pupils who do not have their planner signed will be asked to read at an appropriate time during the school day. It is therefore essential that planners are in school every day.

Together, we can develop the habit of reading for both information and pleasure with our pupils. Reading opens so many doors to future studies and careers. As a trust, our vision is to raise the standards of reading to ultimately transform the life chances available to our pupils. We look forward to your co-operation and thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Ben McGarry

Associate Director of English