



# Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

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Success with Care

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Dear Parents and Carers,

At Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School, we take pride in our whole school focus on reading for pleasure. Regular reading can equip our students with the skills they need to become knowledgeable and strategic readers – and also yields other diverse benefits. Research shows that reading for pleasure really does help with everything: from improving general knowledge and educational attainment, to developing empathy with others - and even easing stress and anxiety.

With this in mind, at DHFS we not only embed key reading strategies as part of our taught curriculum, we also hold numerous reading events across the academic year – including three Reading Weeks. Our next **Reading Week** will take place **9-13 October 2023**. During this week, all students will spend the first ten minutes of each lesson reading a book of their choice - with the sole purpose of reading for pleasure. It is a normal school expectation that students bring a reading book to school, and during 'Reading Week' this is especially important. Mentors have reinforced this message and students have been encouraged to use the LRC (Learning Resource Centre) to ensure that they have plenty of engaging reading material. **Please speak to your child to check that they have a book and are ready.**

Friday 13th will differ from the other days in Reading Week. All students will take part in a shared 'Reading for Empathy' activity. They will spend the time at the start of lessons reading and discussing a series of carefully curated extracts from a shared text. Shared reading experiences like this aim to enrich the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of our students. Reading often provides a window into a culture or setting very different to our own, developing skills in empathy, understanding and acceptance.

In school, we recognise the profound importance of parents in encouraging reading habits for life. Family members are some of the most powerful role models young people have, and we appreciate any support you can give to this vital strand of their learning experience. We would recommend at least 15 minutes of reading per day to relax and unwind away from screens and electronic devices.

More information about Reading Week, our DHFS Reading and Literacy Strategy, details of suggested reading lists and a range of inspiring staff reading profiles can be found here: <https://dhfs.uk/reading-at-dhfs/>

Yours faithfully,

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