



Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

Green Lane, Dronfield, Derbyshire, S18 2FZ

Tel: 01246 412372 Fax: 01246 412885

admin@dronfield.derbyshire.sch.uk

www.dronfield.derbyshire.sch.uk

Twitter: @DHFSupdate

Success with Care

Headteacher: Mr M. J. Cooper

REF:

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 during the week commencing the **22nd January 2024**. 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. If a student who did not bring a reading book with them to the last Reading Week forgets again, they will have a detention.**

Friday 26th will differ from the other days in Reading Week, and from previous Reading Weeks. On this day, teaching staff will bring and share extracts from their favourite books, or current reading material, during the first ten minutes of each lesson, in order to model reading for pleasure, share a diverse range of reading material and inspire the students to try something new.

In school, we recognise the profound importance of parents and carers in encouraging reading habits for life. Family members are some of the most powerful role models young people have, and we appreciate any support that 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; audio books – which can be listened to during car journeys or before bed – can be a good way to encourage reluctant readers to engage.

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,

Rachael Benson

Whole School Reading and Literacy Lead

rbenson@dhfs.uk

Nicola Helliwell

Assistant Headteacher

nhelliwell@dhfs.uk

Karen Whitelegg

LRC Manager

kwhitelegg@dhfs.uk



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