



Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

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Success with Care

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Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

At Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School, we take pride in our focus on reading for pleasure to equip our students with the skills they need to become knowledgeable and strategic readers.

Our next **Reading Week** will take place next week, from 3rd – 7th July. 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, so 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 they have plenty of engaging reading material.

Thursday 6th July will differ from the other days. All students will take part in a shared 'Reading for Empathy' activity. They will spend the time reading and discussing a series of extracts from '**You Don't Know What War Is**' – a powerful insight into what conflict is like through the eyes of a child. It was published in association with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. 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.

Fostering regular reading habits and enjoyment of reading results in enhanced memory and improved vocabulary usage. Research has found that reading for pleasure also reduces stress and anxiety. Family members are some of the most powerful role models young people have in their lives, 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 (and accompanying activity to complete at home if you wish), details of suggested reading lists and a range of inspiring staff reading profiles can be found here: <https://dhfs.uk/reading-at-dhfs/>

Yours sincerely,

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