



Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

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Success with Care

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is almost time for the second of our three annual Reading Weeks! This term, **Reading Week will be held 10th - 14th February**, so please make sure that your child has plenty of reading material. They may bring in a book from home, a local library, or borrow books from the LRC (Learning Resource Centre) in school. **Please speak to your child to check that they have a book and are ready.**

Regular reading equips young people with the skills they need to become knowledgeable and strategic readers – and also yields other diverse benefits. Research shows that reading for pleasure helps with everything from improving general knowledge and educational attainment, to developing empathy with others - and even easing stress, anxiety and aiding sleep.

During Reading Week, all students 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 will reinforce this message and students have been encouraged to use the LRC to ensure that they have plenty of engaging reading material.

Friday 14th will differ from the other days in Reading Week. All students will take part in a shared reading 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, time or setting different from our own and develops skills in empathy, understanding and acceptance.

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 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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