# Reading Advice

As a parent, you will be aware how important reading skills are for your child. Firstly, there is a direct link between attainment and reading. The skills will help your son/daughter to access the **whole curriculum,** not just English. Secondly, developed reading skills are crucial for adult life, where all kinds of texts, documents and important information need to be understood, 'decoded' and processed. As little as 10-15 minutes per day can make a difference!

This booklet contains some useful tips for helping to improve the reading ability of your child.

## Common worries:

| Issue… | Possible solutions… |
|---|---|
| What can I do if my child won't read now that they are at secondary school? | Explain the importance of reading. <br><br> Find a new genre (this could be fiction or non-fiction). You can use websites to suggest suitable reads. Allow the reading of appropriate magazines, online articles and news reports. <br><br> Talk to your child about what you have been reading as well as showing an interest in their choice of material. |
| What should they be reading? | All reading is valuable, so encourage more modern techniques such as eBooks, online articles, magazines as well as books. <br><br> Use your local library to view different books suitable for their reading age. <br><br> www.goodreads.com is a good place to start to look for suitable texts. |
| What should I look out for when my son/daughter is reading? | Read our top tips below which explain what to look out for when your child is reading. |
| How do I help them without 'doing all the work' for them? | Prompt your child rather than give them the answer, for example, you may ask them if they recognise part of the word, know a similar word, break it into small sections, ask what the patterns in the word are. |

## What we do at Ribblesdale:

Year 7 have literacy lessons where reading is expected and pupils take part in a Reading Journey competition.

All Year 7 have a communication task (with reading) during one form time per week.

Books are reviewed regularly by staff and recommended to pupils.

National and international events are celebrated (e.g. World Book Day)

Literature Festival takes place once a year.

The Learning Resource Centre is accessible to all.

Book titles are available to support the pupils who want to read around their subjects.

## Things to look out for:

Outlined below are some of the common indications that a child is struggling whilst they are reading. If you notice any of these things, they could be set as single targets to work on next time. When listening to your son/daughter read, do they:

Rely too much on your help?

Lose the line they are on frequently?

Put another word in place of one that is written?

Miss words out completely?

Add words that are not there?

Repeat words unintentionally?

Hesitate on unfamiliar words for a long time?

Correct their own mistakes?

Break up an unfamiliar word into sections and guess the meaning?

Try to work out the meaning of a word from the sentence it is in?

Look engaged and interested in what they are reading?

Read difficult sentences again with better expression?

Respond as you would expect? e.g. laughing, shocked, etc.

Encourage those points in green, whilst using any red points as things to work on.
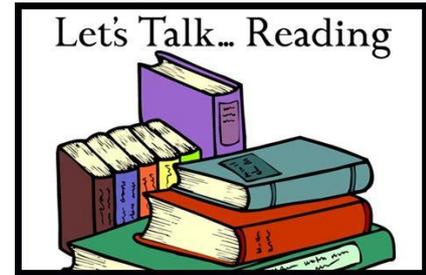
## 10 TOP TIPS:

1. Encourage reading for at least 10 minutes every day. Continue this through from primary school.
2. Read with your child.
3. Discuss the importance of reading for all subject areas (not just English).
4. Find different types of reading material that your child may like.
5. Ensure that some of the time at home is spent away from mobile phones and other distractions, but be open to using technology for reading.
6. Encourage your child to talk about their reading.
7. Allow your child to witness adults at home reading too. Share your thoughts on books that you have read.
8. Praise and reward your son/daughter for their effort with reading.
9. Encourage your child to take part in any reading events and visit the local library as well as the school library.
10. Ask a member of staff if you want further advice!