



*“Reading is to the  
mind what exercise is  
to the body.”*

— Joseph Addison

# My Reading Diary

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FORM:** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Keep reading. It’s one  
of the most marvelous  
adventures that anyone  
can have.”*

—Lloyd Alexander



Dear Parent / Carer,

We are writing to inform you of an initiative to boost your child's reading age and therefore guide them towards academic success.

Your child's reading age has been tested throughout the past year. During their English lessons they engaged with a programme called Accelerated Reader. Despite this intervention, your child's reading age is still below that of their chronological age. While your child will continue with Accelerated Reader this year we are offering further intervention to support them.

Your child has been given a yellow reading log to take home. We are asking parents to read with their children for 20 minutes every day (Monday - Sunday), note the pages read in their yellow reading log and sign in the comments section.

This will be checked during their reading lessons with their English teacher.

Research shows that reading for 20 minutes every day is one of the best ways to improve a young person's reading skills. You can find more information via this link <https://basmo.app/reading-20-minutes-a-day/> Improving reading has been shown to: improve behaviour; boost mental health; increase school grades across all subjects and allow for better future employment prospects.

GCSE exam papers require a reading age of at least 16 and therefore it is imperative that students engage in this intervention.

We understand that home lives are busy and young people often don't want to read with their parents at this age, however it is important that we do everything we can to support them in boosting their reading skills. If you would like learn more about supporting your child even further as they read this is a useful resource:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXHHZeyKW0c>

We appreciate your support with this initiative. Should you have any questions please feel free to email either Mr Sayer [b.sayer@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:b.sayer@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk) or our SENDCo Ms Minnock [a.kean@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:a.kean@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk)

Kind regards,

Mr. B Sayer  
Literacy Coordinator

Mrs A Kean  
SENDCo



# Book List

## Animals

- Dumb Creatures - Jeanne Willis
- The Butterfly Lion – Michael Morpurgo
- Anna Sewell – Black Beauty
- The What on Earth? Wallbook Timeline of Nature – Christopher Lloyd
- The Crowstarver – Dick King-Smith
- Lionboy – Zizou Corder
- Tiger Wars – Steve Backshall



## Humour

- Aliens Don't Eat Dog Food - Dinah Capparucci
- Girls Rule - Alesha Dixon
- Killer Mushrooms Ate My Gran - Susan Gates
- Trust Me I'm a Trouble Maker - Pete Johnson
- Jones Charmed Life - Diana Wynne
- Night of the Living Veg - Phillip Reeve
- Night of the Living Dead - Phillip Reeve
- Harry and the Wrinklies - Alan Temperley
- Fruit and Nutcase – Jean Ure
- Granny – Anthony Horowitz
- The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged thirteen and three quarters – Sue Townsend



## Spooky/Mystery

- The Haunting – Maragret Mahy
- Mokee Joe Series – Peter J Murray
- Cirque Du Freak – Darren Shan
- The Vampire's Assistant - Darren Shan
- Vampirates series – Justin Sompter
- The Thousand Eyes of Night - Robert Swindells
- Eren – Simon P Clark
- Abomination – Robert Swindells
- The Weathermonger – Pete Dickinson
- Murder Most Unladylike Series – Robin Stevens
- Alice Jones (code breaking maths geek – Sarah Rubin

## History

- I am David – Anne Holm
- When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit – Judith Kerr
- The Silk Roads – Peter Frankopan
- The Missing – Michael Rosen
- The Thieves of Ostia – Caroline Lawrence
- Tom's War – Robert Leeson
- The Firework Maker's Daughter – Phillip Pullman
- Empire's End: A Roman Story – Leila Rasheed
- Blitz Boys – Linda Newberry
- Fly Away Home – Christine Nostlinger
- Dolphin Crossing – Jill Paton Walsh
- The Machine Gunners – Robert Westall Blitzcat
- Once – Morris Gleitzman
- The Silver Sword – Ian Serraillier



## Fantasy

- Midnight is a Place - Joan Aiken
- The Last Last-Day-of-Summer - Lamar Giles
- Skellig - David Almond
- Heaven Eyes - David Almond
- Artemis Fowl series - Eion Colfer
- The Supernaturalist - Eion Colfer
- The Dark is Rising sequence - Susan Cooper
- Icefire - Chris D'Lacey
- Shrinking Ralph Perfect - Chris D'Lacey
- The Salt Pirates of Skegness - Chris D'Lacey
- Ingo - Helen Dunmore
- Inkheart - Cornelia Funke
- Inkspell - Cornelia Funke
- The Thief Lord - Cornelia Funke
- The Owl Service - Alan Garner
- Elidor – Alan Garner
- Warriors of the Raven - Alan Gibbons
- Little White Horse - Elizabeth Goudge
- The Power of Five series - Anthony Horowitz
- Warrior Cats series - Erin Hunter
- Redwall - Brian Jaques
- Tooth and Claw - Stephen Moore
- The Wind on Fire Trilogy - William Nicholson
- The Noble Warriors Trilogy – William Nicholson
- Charlie Bone series - Jenny Nimmo
- Measle and the Mallockee - Ian Ogilvy
- Eragon - Christopher Paolini
- Johnny and the Bomb - Terry Pratchet
- Diggers - Terry Pratchet
- The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents - Terry Pratchet
- His Dark Materials Series - Philip Pullman
- Mortal Engines - Philip Reeve
- Mighty Fizz Chilla - Philip Ridley
- Harry Potter Series - J. K. Rowling
- Holes - Louis Sachar
- Small Steps – Louis Sachar
- Septamus Flyte series - Angie Sage
- Shapeshifter series - Ali Sparkes
- The Edge Chronicles series - Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell
- Golem's Eye - Jonathan Stroud
- In the Nick of Time - Robert Swindells
- Shadowmancer - G. P. Taylor
- The Swithchers Trilogy - Kate Thompson
- The Missing Link – Kate Thompson
- The Hobbit - J. R. R. Tolkein
- Lord of the Rings - J. R. R. Tolkein
- Ms Swordhand is Singing – Marcus Sedgewick





<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
<i>E.g 12/03</i>	<i>E.g. The Hobbit</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>I learnt about how Hobbits live in very beautiful houses, not dark and damp holes in the ground.</i>

Notes/Messages for classroom teacher

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