



ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

"Let Your Light Shine"

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Dear Parent/Carer,

17th August 2024

The importance of reading for pleasure

I hope your child has enjoyed the first half of their summer holidays. By now, I imagine, they will be getting a little bit bored of endless scrolling through social media and watching clips on youtube. Now is the perfect time to gently encourage them to engage in some summer reading!

The benefits of reading are well documented – the break from the constant social media is perhaps the best! The negative impact of phones and social media on children's mental health is starting to emerge as more research is conducted. Engaging in a book for just 30 minutes a day could be the perfect remedy. But what is the best way of getting a teenager back into a reading? Look below for some helpful tips:

1 Traditional books - Click on our website and scroll to the bottom to find the link of recommended reads that have been carefully selected by our brilliant librarian Ms Rani.

<https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/curriculum/reading/summer-reading/>

There is a different section per year group. There are some cracking reads on here and many teachers at Archbishop Ilesley will also be reading them right now! You could order them off the internet, buy them from a local bookshop (even better!) or see if your local library stock any of them.

2 Subtitles - When you are watching a programme on TV, such as a Netflix drama, simply put the subtitles in. Your child won't be able to stop themselves from reading without even realising it!

3 Kindle - Download the app and link it to your amazon account. This means your child can access any book that has ever been published on their phone. My personal favourite thing to do is 'try before you buy' by making use of the 'download a sample' facility. This means you can usually read around 25 pages to see if it captures your child's imagination. I'd recommend sampling 3 or 4 first chapters before you buy one.

4 Audible - If you are going on any long journeys this summer, I'd recommend audio books. There are a range of different apps available. Audible currently has a free 3-month trial where children can download one free book per month. Great for listening together in the car. Even better if your child follows along.

5 Guardian/BBC app - Not everyone enjoys reading fiction. Some children will say they are more into sports, shopping or gaming. Well, on these websites they can learn more about their favourite hobbies... by reading about them! With the football season resuming, I would personally recommend reading a football report after a match they have just watched, for example. Or reading a review of film or series they have just seen. IMDB is good for this too.

I hope you found this advice helpful. Let me know what your child decided to read when I see you in September.

Yours faithfully

Mr Clinton
Headteacher