



ABINGDON

8 September 2022

Dear Parents

### **Personal Reading Books at School**

In an age when technological gadgets and social media compete with more traditional pursuits for our leisure time, reading books for pleasure is more important than ever. Not only does reading for pleasure improve academic outcomes, but it also helps to develop important traits such as imagination and empathy that are essential to personal and professional life.

To enable and encourage reading for pleasure, from Monday 26 September all 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year students will be expected to carry a personal reading book during the school day. In order to support this, the School Librarian, Dr Graham Gardner, will welcome all students in these year groups to the Library for a familiarisation session, and every week time will be set aside in English lessons for personal reading. Your child's tutor may also make time for silent reading in tutor periods.

Your child's reading books might be fiction or non-fiction, library books or books from home, old books or new books; we do not wish to be prescriptive about your child's personal reading, but the book should offer a level of challenge appropriate to their age and ability. Dr Gardner and your child's English teacher will gladly offer reading recommendations tailored to your child. Dr Gardner has prepared an initial list of recommendations, which is attached to the Weekly Mailing, and further reading lists will be published over the course of the year.

Thank you for your support in this important matter. Please do get in touch if you have any questions at all.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Coolin, Head of English

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