

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

July 2020

At Ninestiles we have three core values: respect, commitment and achievement which we believe are the keys to success. This academic year we are making a commitment to prioritising the reading journey of every child at Ninestiles. We want all of our students to become life-long readers. There is a proven positive relationship between reading and academic progress. If you read for twenty minutes a day, you pick up 1.8 million words per year which is the equivalent to sixty extra school days per year. As well as having an academic advantage reading is also known for: reducing stress, developing empathy and deepening our understanding of literature and the world around us.

This year every child will have their reading age tested at three points across the academic year starting with the week beginning the 7th of September for KS3. This is to ensure we can track your child's progress in reading and identify any child that needs extra support or intervention in their reading journey. If your child is selected to receive additional support this will be communicated to you and you will be invited into school for a reading workshop about the support that we will be putting into place for your child.

Once we have assessed your child's reading age we will be using a program called Accelerated Reader (AR) that helps teachers manage and monitor your child's independent reading practice. Your child will have the opportunity to select a book from their appropriate reading level and will aim to read every day in school and at home. Your child will record their everyday reading inside their Ninestiles planner. Teachers and librarians can help your child make reading choices from our vast selection of fiction and non-fiction books.

Once your child has finished reading a book they are expected to take a short quiz on a computer using Accelerated Reader based on their reading practice. This quiz needs to be taken within 48 hours of completing their chosen book so that the results of the quiz will give your child and their teachers feedback enabling them to improve their reading skills and encourage them to read increasingly challenging texts.

We will also be promoting our reading culture through: assemblies, form time, English lessons, Literacy lessons, reading for pleasure lessons (yr7), breakfast book club and whole school reading sessions. Your child will have the opportunity to read for twenty minutes each day in our DEAR sessions (Drop Everything and Read.) Your child will be expected to read for thirty minutes every day at home as part of our Homework policy. All students are expected to have an age appropriate reading book as part of their daily equipment and this will be checked by your child's form tutor. We will be running a rewards programme every half term for the top nine students within each year group that make the most progression with their reading journey.

You can help us with your child's reading journey by:

- Encouraging your child to discuss what they are reading with you.
- Giving your child opportunities to read to you or their siblings.
- Reminding your child to take their AR quiz within 48 hours of completing their reading book.
- Ensuring your child reads for thirty minutes every day.
- Ensuring your child takes their reading book to school every day.

If you have any further questions about our reading culture, your child's reading journey or the monitoring of reading progression, please contact Miss Wyer – Jessica.wyer@ninstiles.org.uk.

Strength through Diversity | Ambition through Challenge | Excellence through Curiosity

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