

6 March 2025



Smestow Academy
www.smestowacademy.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you well. As we progress through this academic year, I wish to take a moment to highlight the vital role that reading at home plays in your child's education. Engaging in regular reading not only enhances literacy skills but also fosters a love for literature that can last a lifetime.

At Smestow Academy, we are excited to introduce our latest reading incentive, "16 Before 16". This initiative encourages our pupils to read 16 selected books before they conclude Year 11. By participating, pupils not only enrich their reading experience but also stand a chance to win exciting prizes such as a Kindle or National Book Tokens. We firmly believe that this initiative will motivate pupils to explore a variety of genres and engage with different styles of writing, ultimately enhancing their comprehension and critical thinking skills.

To support your child's reading journey, I would like to propose several strategies that can be incorporated into your daily routine at home:

Build in Daily Reading Time: Designate a specific time each day for reading, creating a comforting routine that emphasises the importance of this activity. Consistency is key in cultivating a reading habit.

Read Together: Take the time to read with your child. This not only provides an opportunity for shared enjoyment but also reinforces the significance of reading. Your enthusiasm for the material can inspire them to connect more deeply with the text.

Ask Questions About Their Reading: Encourage discussions about the books they are reading. Ask open-ended questions to foster comprehension and critical thinking. This interaction strengthens their analytical skills and deepens their understanding.

Inquire about the 5 Ws: Assist your child in exploring the narrative by discussing the 5 Ws: Who are the key characters? What is the story about? Where and when does it take place? Why do events occur? This approach promotes critical engagement with the text and enhances their ability to summarise and reflect.

Model Reading Fluency: By reading aloud to your child, you can demonstrate expressive reading and encourage fluency. This practice not only improves their pronunciation and intonation but also makes reading enjoyable.



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In conclusion, your support in fostering a reading culture at home is invaluable. We are committed to nurturing our pupils' literary talents and encouraging them to become lifelong readers. Should you have any questions or require further resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration in your child's education.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Chamberlain
Headteacher



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