



**YEAR 7
PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING**

Wednesday, 14th September 2016



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and Mathematics

Supporting your Child's Literacy Skills

At Springfield, literacy is everyone's responsibility. We work hard to ensure that pupils are reminded of key literacy skills in each subject. However, the more a pupil is exposed to these skills the better and as such we cannot overstate the importance of pupils working on their literacy at home. The following strategies can be used at home to support your child.

Tips for supporting reading

Your son/daughter will be studying a wide range of subjects at secondary school and will be working with many different types of reading materials from books/novels, newspaper articles, adverts and textbooks to scientific explanations and instructions.

- Listen to your child read aloud in the evening. This allows you the opportunity to not only check they are pronouncing words correctly but that they understand what they have read
- Engage your child in discussion - ask questions about the book your child is reading, get them to describe the story and main characters to you. You could also ask them to make predictions based on the information they have discovered so far
- Check the reading log they should be keeping in their planners, this will give you a good idea about how much progress is being made. Try to encourage them to read for pleasure whenever the opportunity may arise
- Reading skills - try some skimming and scanning together. Skimming is when you read through a piece of text quickly to find out what the main idea is; scanning is glancing through a piece of text to find a specific piece of information. You can do this with a newspaper – perhaps ask your child to find something out for you. Why not ask them to scan a newspaper for news about a favourite footballer or to find out the weekend weather, or get them to skim read a recipe to tell you the basic steps
- Help them to work out what an unfamiliar word means by getting them to read the rest of the sentence and look for clues
- Help to build up your child's vocabulary. As they go through secondary school, your child will need to know key words and recognise them when they are reading. To help them learn these key words, you could ask your child to explain to you what they mean
- Help by testing your child when they have spellings to learn, and by encouraging them to look up words they do not know in a dictionary

Tips for supporting writing

Before:

- Ensure that your child understands who they are writing for (**audience**), why they are writing the piece (**purpose**), what the piece needs to focus on (**about**) and what type of text they are being asked to produce (**form**).
- Plan with them how they will write their work. Break the topic into smaller chunks (each chunk should be a new paragraph)
- Verbally rehearse – get them to tell you what they are going to write, this helps them to refine their thoughts

During:

- Check they have remembered to use a ruler and have written the date at the top of the page as well as a heading. Written work should be in black pen
- Remind your child that they should be writing in paragraphs
- Get them to check that every sentence begins with a capital letter
- Encourage them to vary the openings of sentences (so that they do not all begin in the same way)
- Make sure they check their punctuation and spelling, a dictionary and thesaurus are always useful to have around
- Encourage them to write as if they are the reader: make their writing as clear and informative as possible for the reader
- If writing an analysis piece, encourage your child to use the reading ladder so as to add more detail

After:

- Always get them to proof read their work

Homework – How can you help?

- Ask your child to show you the homework recorded in their planners. Try and establish a timetable and prioritise each piece according to its due in date
- In Year 7 pupils should be expecting between an hour and an hour and a half of homework every night. All written homework should have a date, title and H/W written on the page
- Try to provide a quiet area for homework, free from any other distractions
- If your child has been asked to research a topic, make sure they have not simply copied and pasted from the internet. Check that they have rewritten the information using their own words
- Insist that the quality of the work submitted for homework is of the same high standard as classwork

Useful organisations and websites for supporting literacy

- The National Literacy Trust is a charity dedicated to building a literate nation. The National Literacy Trust's website provides up-to-date information about literacy for all age groups in the UK. There is a section for parents including details of useful organisations, research, statistics, events, resources and links. www.literacytrust.org.uk
- Barrington Stoke is an award-winning publisher that makes books for reluctant, dyslexic, disenchanted and under-confident readers. www.barringtonstoke.co.uk
- Booktrust promotes children's reading and produces a wide range of information for young readers including booklists. www.bookheads.org.uk (website for teenagers)
- British Dyslexia Association is the national organisation for specific learning difficulties. It represents over two million dyslexic children and adults. It is one of the world's leading dyslexia organisations. www.bda-dyslexia.org.uk Tel: 0118 966 8271 (helpline). There are many other support organisations for children with dyslexia. For more information visit www.literacytrust.org.uk/links/special.html#dyslexia
- Cool-reads - The cool-reads site is designed and run by Chris (15) and Tim (14) and features hundreds of cool-reads reviewed by 10-15 year olds. Children and teenagers can send in reviews or comments as well as play book games and quizzes, or join the cool-talk discussion forum. www.cool-reads.co.uk
- The National Reading Campaign is run by the National Literacy Trust for the DfES and promotes reading across all age groups. The NRC runs schemes such as Reading Champions that celebrates positive male role models for reluctant readers. To find out more about how the NRC can help, visit www.readon.org.uk Tel: 020 7828 2435 for help and advice.
- Reading Is Fundamental, UK is an initiative of the National Literacy Trust that gives children the opportunity to choose and keep free books. The RIF, UK website offers parents advice and help on reading with their children and also has a section for teenagers featuring author interviews, competitions and book giveaways. www.rif.org.uk

Resources for Supporting your Child with Numeracy and Mathematics

Your child will have a password label in their study planner (which you can also use) in order to access:



where math
is just a game

www.mangahigh.com



<https://www.mathswatchvle.com/>

(Also available as a free app for tablets, which can be used with school login details – see MathsWatch website for operating system details)

To find puzzles, problems and popular science articles for stretching the most able:



nrich.maths.org



plus.maths.org

For information on supporting your child as they progress in Mathematics, you can find online '**Understanding Progress in Mathematics: A Guide for Parents**'. This material has been archived by the DfE due to the removal of levels in the curriculum, but the ideas for working with children at home on their numeracy remain valid and useful.



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