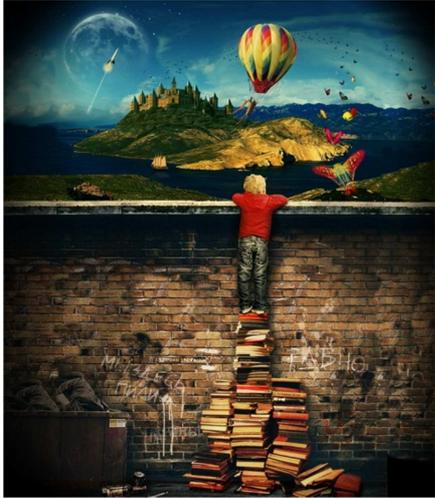


Reading matters



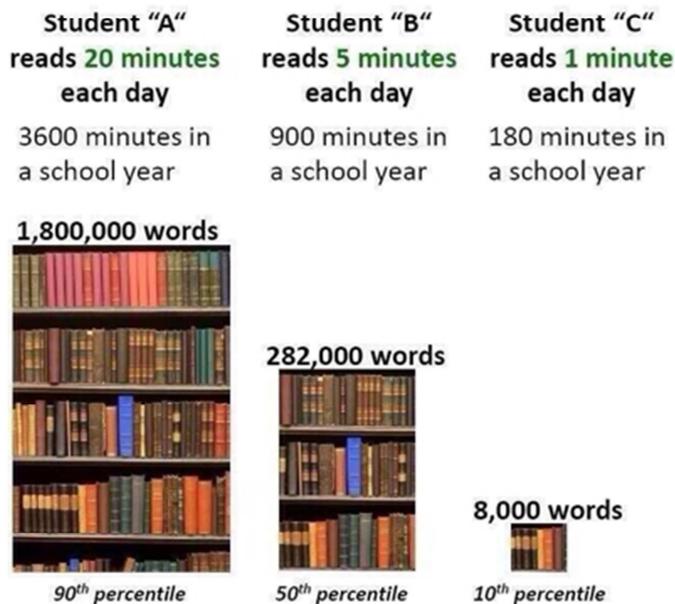
At Hellingly, we place a high priority on daily reading and we know that our families do too. Unfortunately, some of our children are not receiving their commitment tokens for reading 5 times weekly and I wanted to address any concerns parents and carers may have about this.

- Children should be reading for a minimum of 10 minutes daily. Where this can be hard to fit in due to clubs etc, consider where it can fit in. Some children are able to read in the car without feeling sick. Many children enjoy reading in bed before they go to sleep. Could children fit in 10 minutes reading after breakfast? The important thing is making it work for your family schedule.
- Reading can be in a variety of forms – it does not have to be a ‘chapter book.’ Every child has an area of interest – utilise this. If they are interested in the natural world, find a book about volcanoes or about animals. If they are interested in football, find a suitable biography or a footballing magazine. If they are interested in computer games, again a magazine or a book about these – there are many books on minecraft and lego available. Reading could also be online – if your child is interested in current events, encourage them to read articles on the Newsround or First News websites. Reading in whichever form interests your child is great!
- Reading does not have to be expensive. You can borrow a variety of books for free from the school library or from Hailsham library. <http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/> allows you to read the first chapter for free to help select a book before making the trip to a library or bookshop. For our Pupil Premium (Free School Meals) children, we have kindles which can be borrowed (please see Mrs. Ward if you are interested in this / if you think you may qualify for Free School Meals). As detailed above, your child could choose to read online articles on subject areas of interest to them.
- Parents and carers are important role models – so when you read books, magazines, newspapers, online articles, etc discuss this with your children and let them see you reading for enjoyment and for information.

- Remember to record ANY reading your child participates in in their reading record books – even if this is, for example, a family trip to Drusillas and your child has read the information about the animals going around the zoo. If they are reading, they deserve credit for this – and their commitment tokens where they have read 5 times + in a week. Remember also that in KS2, children can record their reading themselves – it does not require an adult to do this for them.

A final thought: the ability to read impacts on every subject at school: no matter which subject or hobby is of most interest to each individual, they will be able to find out information about this and indeed access the curriculum through reading. Everyone has interests and passions they are interested to find out more about (and those they are not!) – your child can further develop their interests and passions through reading at the same time as developing an interest in and appreciation for reading. And it opens up new worlds, new experiences and new knowledge. Your children **really** benefit from the time you put in to reading with them. But, even more important than the academic benefits, we want our children to develop a lifelong love of reading, to enrich their lives for years to come.

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?



By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)