

**Mr P Walker BSc (Hons) – Headteacher**  
**Mr R Vaughan – Chair of Governors**

**Crofton Academy**  
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Dear Parent/Carer

Following the launch of Accelerated Reader, we endeavour to continue to raise literacy standards across the school and address any gaps in learning caused by lockdown.

One of the best ways we can help pupils to catch up with their learning is to encourage them to read. From the week commencing Monday 17 May, we will be asking pupils to do the following:

- Always have a reading book (fiction) with them at school. They should already have their Accelerated Reader book with them. A simple read-only Kindle (Oasis, Paperwhite or Kids edition) is allowed, but they are the pupil's responsibility. A Kindle Fire tablet is not permitted.
- Read at home for at least 20 minutes per day if possible. This might be something a pupil builds up to.
- Engage with reading activities during tutor time, Accelerated Reader lessons and weekly DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) lessons.

Reading for pleasure is one of the most important activities your child can do to improve their achievement in school. Research has shown that reading helps cognitive development; a recent Institute of Education study revealed that pupils who read at home do 'significantly better' across the curriculum – including 9.9% better in maths – than pupils who do not read. Furthermore, reading is the best way to improve vocabulary, essential for success in every subject.

As you will be aware from our previous letter, your child now has an Accelerated Reader account and they are reading books, logging quizzes (which they can complete at home) and earning rewards. Information on this is available on the school website in the remote learning and literacy tabs and in their Accelerated Reader class in Google Classroom.

Assessment for Accelerated Reader has also generated a reading age for your child and you will now receive this information as part of your child's progress report. Together, we want to help your child move towards reading at their biological age or even exceed it. Below are some helpful tips to support your child to read at home.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Yours faithfully

**Victoria Jagger**  
Literacy Co-ordinator

**Victoria Elliott**  
SEND Co-ordinator

**Keeley Smith**  
School Librarian



## How you can help

- Please encourage your child to bring a book to school. They will also be able to borrow a book from the school library as part of their Accelerated Reader lesson and can ask their English teacher or our librarian, Miss Smith, if they need help choosing a suitable book.
- Encourage your child to read every day and ask them to tell you about their book.
- Find books with a connection to something that they love – we will provide some hints and tips on our website.
- Be enthusiastic about what they are reading – ask them to describe a character or to read aloud an exciting bit.
- Let your children see you reading for pleasure – talk about what you read and how you choose books.
- If you have younger children, ask your older child to read aloud to them – this is a big confidence booster.
- Continue to read aloud to your children (even if they are fluent readers) – this can be a great way to expose them to books that are just slightly too hard for them to read on their own.
- Try Barrington Stokes books – these are produced with tinted pages, special fonts, thicker paper and editing to reduce comprehension barriers and/or issues resulting from dyslexia <https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk>

## Top Tips to encourage reluctant readers

- Offer incentives – can they read a certain number of pages per week for a reward?
- Find a book version of a movie that they like – both of you can read the book, watch the film together and then discuss the differences.
- Have them pick up an e device – an e-reader! – check with your local library about borrowing e books or try the Kindle daily deal.
- Try audio books – libraries have free, downloadable audio books plus Audible has a wide range of teen books. By listening to a book your child will pick up new vocabulary, hear complex sentences and engage with stories.
- Try biographies/autobiographies that interest your child.

