

Reading at Home

ALDERBROOK SCHOOL | JANUARY 2022

READING MATTERS

BY MR BEVERIDGE
ABK HEADTEACHER

Reading books stimulates imagination and expands understanding of the world, prioritises well-being and supports academic achievement. Reading is essential for progress in life for all ABK students.



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MEET OUR NEW ABK LIBRARIAN

Miss Cameron joined our Alderbrook Staff back in September 2021 at the beginning of the school year. In the last few months she has managed to completely transform our space from bare shelves to a full and vibrant library; now a hub of both student and staff activity.

Before joining us, Miss Cameron previously worked at two primary academies in Birmingham after finishing her university studies in 'English and Theatre Studies' (BA) and 'Shakespeare and Creativity' (MA).



MISS CAMERON

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE & SAFE SPACE BY MISS CAMERON

Since September, we've been working hard to turn our new library into an inclusive and safe space. We have purchased a large amount of new books by ethnic minority authors and books promoting diversity and inclusion. We've created a space that celebrates reading in all its forms including fanfiction (a personal love of mine), graphic novels and subtitled anime. At ABK we strive to help promote reading by encouraging our students to read for pleasure and as an act of mindfulness. I'm proud of our new library space and the students who make regular use of it to relax and do homework. Student engagement has been phenomenal so far this year and we hope to see it grow even more.

IT'S MORE THAN JUST THE PLOT!

Enjoying reading is more than just knowing the plot of a book. Reading has huge social, biological and academic benefits. Read how reading is important on the next page. We want our Alderbrook students to really understand what they're reading, which you can help with by asking the questions outlined in our 'Reading Strategies' section.

WHY READING IS SO IMPORTANT!

BY MISS CAMERON

Biologically

There are multiple examples of how reading has a biological benefit for your child. Reading keeps the brain healthy and prevents the gradual loss of mental faculties, known as 'cognitive decline'. Reading also improves memory and is great for decreasing stress, which can become a large issue for students when tackling school work, social lives and other commitments.

Socially

Reading is important for its social benefits. Reading builds empathy, creativity and imagination for your child, whether they read fiction or non-fiction. Reading is also a great source of fun. If your child believes otherwise, encourage them to try different kinds of books until they find one that they

do enjoy. Finally, books act as a source of connection and lead to a great avenue for social discussion which can help children make friends and new connections.

Academically

Reading more will also help your child in all subjects (not only English). Reading improves a person's vocabulary, writing skills and further expands their knowledge on a range of topics. Each of these skills supports learning in any subject.

"Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else's shoes for a while."

- Malorie Blackman

FORMS OF READING

While we are awake, most people will be reading in some shape or form because words are everywhere! We read signs, menus, schedules, posters, social media content and more in any given day.

Reading doesn't only come in the form of a paper or hardback book. It is important to encourage your child to read in a way that they are already enjoying doing, such as with ebooks, fanfiction, written video game tutorials, even watching foreign movies/tv with English subtitles on.



HOW TO ENCOURAGE READING



LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Leading by example is the best way to get your child to read. Find yourself a great book and actively read. Show your child that you enjoy reading and support them doing the same.

TRIPS TO LIBRARIES/ BOOKSTORES

Going to a library or bookstore is a great way to make reading special and to surround your child with book options for them to choose from. Libraries are a great source of free books and can very much inspire a love of libraries and reading at the same time.

TIME FOR READING

Setting aside time for reading is a great way to include reading into your child's schedule and allow them stress-free time to really sink into their book. This could be full family reading time at the weekend, or a set hour before your child goes to bed.

DISCUSSION OF BOOKS

Discussing books that you and your child are reading is a great way both to encourage more reading, and create a connection between you two as readers. Ask who their favourite character is, why they enjoyed a book or their favourite genre. Even if they hated a book, ask why they didn't like it and see if you can work out what might be a better book next time.

4 READING STRATEGIES

ASKING QUESTIONS HELPS!

BY THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

You can improve your child's reading by asking questions about their books.

Prediction

Pupils can make accurate predictions from what they have read. Questions you can ask your child to support them with accurate prediction are:

What is on front cover? How might these details give us clues about the content of the book?

Based on what you know about the character/event, how do you think the story will develop?

The character is in a tricky situation. What will the character do next? What would you do? Why?

Vocabulary

Pupils discover new words and can use these words in a different context. Ask your child to define words and infer the meaning of ones they don't know. Help them learn new vocabulary,

Summarising

Pupils can state the main theses/arguments of the text and paraphrase effectively.

Questions to ask:

What is the main theme/argument in this paragraph?

Can you describe what happened in this paragraph/chapter?

Can you describe what happened in three sentences?

Is there anything you know now which you didn't know before?

Retrieval

Pupils can clearly state facts from the text.

Questions to ask:

Where is the story set?

How does the main character look/behave/speak?

Where would you find a section about ____?

Where did _____ go?

Who are the key characters in the book?

What did (s)he/it look like?

LIBRARY CULTURE



OUR LIBRARY

Our library is a perfect balance of promoting learning and relaxation by creating an environment that is both comfortable and practical.

There are four computer stations for online research and homework, as well as twenty desk spaces for study or silent hobbies such as drawing. We also have multiple sofas and armchairs, perfect for curling up in with a book.

The library has been organised to be as effective and easy to use for our students as possible. We have an excellent selection of both fiction and non-fiction which is both colour coded and clearly labelled by subject and genre.

For our Year 7s, our books are clearly marked with the Accelerated Reader stickers at the top of the spines.

LIBRARY RULES

- **Respect the space and each other:** Maintain silence during break and lunchtime so everyone can enjoy the library.
- **Keep food and drink out of the library**
- **Keep the space tidy:** Leave books and furniture where you found them.
- **Return books on time**
- **Look after books:** Do not write, mark, highlight or fold down corners in the books.

LIBRARY OPEN TIMES



Monday

10:30 - 11:20

12:20 - 12:50

1:20 - 1:50

Tuesday - Friday

10:30 - 10:50

12:20 - 12:50

1:20 - 1:50

Also open after school for clubs and homework on certain days of the week. Students can ask Miss Cameron for more details.

LIBRARY CLUBS AND CLASSES

Along with the regular availability of the library space at breaks and lunchtimes for the students, we have also opened our library during lesson time for teachers to bring their classes down for lessons in the library and opened afterschool for clubs.

LIBRARY LESSONS

Alderbrook teachers can now book to bring their classes to the library to allow them access to more books for independent research alongside the curriculum texts.

We have further introduced 'ABK Book Boxes'; an opportunity for our librarian to deliver a box of library resources directly to classrooms to help with lessons or during form time.

BOOKLOVERS/ HOMEWORK CLUB

At booklovers' club, our library is open for all booklovers and those who wish to continue their homework before going home. Students enjoy discussions of favourite books and give recommendations to their peers as well as appreciating a more quiet time of the day to create crafts, relax with a book or continue their learning.

MANGA CLUB

After an amazing initial take up, we have had to open two separate manga clubs. One is currently full to bursting with younger years, enjoying discussing our manga selection and those they have at home, as well as watching episodes of anime and using our drawing guides to draw their own manga scenes. Our second club has become a calmer haven for those who wish to have intellectual discussions on the meanings of certain manga and are about to branch out into a selection of different anime genres. Both groups enjoy our half-termly 'feasts' of Japanese treats to expand their experience with Japanese culture.



KS3 ESSENTIAL READING

THE 'CHERUB' SERIES - BY ROBERT MUCHAMORE (GRAPHIC NOVELS)

The Cherub series is a group of spy novels which revolve around a top-secret branch of the British Security Service called CHERUB, which employs bright children, predominantly orphans under the age of 17, as intelligence agents. They are trained to slip under adult radar and discover information that sends criminals to jail.



THANKS A LOT, UNIVERSE - BY CHAD LUCAS

Ezra's always been popular. But now, some of his friends have been acting differently, and anxious Brian seems to be pulling away. Ezra wants to help, but he worries if he's too nice to Brian, his friends will realize that he has a crush on him . . . But when Brian and his brother run away, Ezra has no choice but to take the leap and reach out.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR RUNNING- BY MICHAEL WILLIAMS

Just down the road from their families, Deo and his friends play soccer in the dusty fields of Zimbabwe, cheered on by Deo's older brother, Innocent. It is a day like any other... until the soldiers arrive and Deo and Innocent are forced to run for their lives, fleeing the wreckage of their village for the distant promise of safe haven. Along the way, they face the prejudice and poverty that await refugees everywhere, and must rely on the kindness of people they meet to make it through.

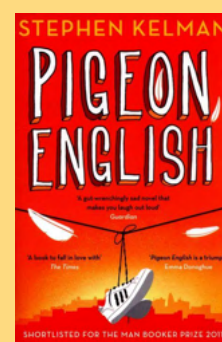


THE THING ABOUT JELLYFISH- BY ALI BENJAMIN

Suzy doesn't speak after her best friend (who was a great swimmer) drowns. She must have been stung by a deadly jellyfish and she's going to prove it. So she retreats into silence, researching the jellyfish and formulating a plan that will take her across the world to discover the truth about the creature she's certain took her best friend away from her. A heartbreakingly beautiful story of love, loss and jellyfish.

PIDGEON ENGLISH - BY STEPHEN KELMAN

Newly arrived from Ghana with his mother and older sister Lydia, Harri absorbs the many strange elements of city life. But his life is changed forever when one of his friends is murdered. The victim's football boots hang in tribute to him on the railings behind fluorescent tape and police appeal draws only silence. So Harri decides to act - unwittingly endangering the fragile web his mother has spun to keep them safe.



KS4 ESSENTIAL READING

THEY BOTH DIE AT THE END - BY ADAM SILVERA

Death-Cast calls Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio to give them some bad news: They're going to die today. Mateo and Rufus are total strangers, but, for different reasons, they're both looking to make a new friend on their End Day. The good news: There's an app for that. It's called the "Last Friend", and through it, Rufus and Mateo are about to meet up for one last great adventure—to live a lifetime in a single day.

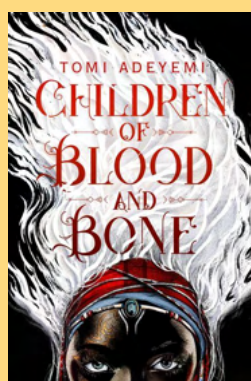


'THE HUNGER GAMES' SERIES - BY SUZANNE COLLINS

In a dark vision of the near future, twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to appear in the 'Hunger Games'. There is only one rule: kill or be killed. When sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen steps forward to take her sister's place in the games, she sees it as a death sentence. But Katniss has been close to death before. For her, survival is second nature.

MAUS - BY ART SPIEGELMAN (GRAPHIC NOVEL)

This graphic novel tells the story of Spiegelman's father's experience of the Holocaust. He depicts the Nazis as cats, the Jews as mice, the Poles as pigs and the Americans as dogs. Yet they are all terrifyingly human. It follows Spiegelman's father's story, frame by frame, from youth and marriage in pre-war Poland to imprisonment in Auschwitz.



CHILDREN OF BLOOD AND BONE - BY TOMI ADEYEMI

Zélie remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Anyone with powers was targeted and killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Only a few people remain with the power to use magic, and they must remain hidden. Now she has a chance to bring back magic to her people and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must learn to harness her powers and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good.

THE HATE U GIVE - BY ANGIE THOMAS

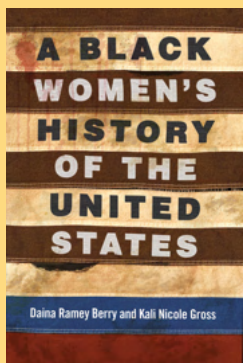
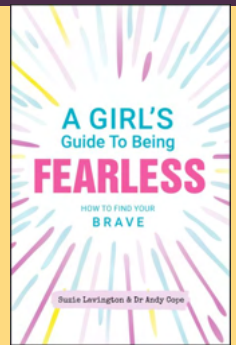
Starr Carter is constantly switching between two worlds: the poor, mostly black, neighbourhood where she lives and the rich, mostly white, prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Now, facing pressures from all sides of the community, Starr must find her voice and stand up for what's right.



BRILLIANT NEW NON-FICTION

A GIRL'S GUIDE TO BEING FEARLESS - BY SUZIE LAVINGTON

A Girl's Guide to Being Fearless unlocks self-esteem, confidence, wellbeing, resilience and offers an antidote to an overwhelming world of altered photos, filters, and fillers. A Girl's Guide helps parents, girls, and teachers understand that wellbeing is an inside job. As an essential book for our time, this guide reflects the challenging world facing teens. Keep calm and read A Girl's Guide to Being Fearless, a gathering of life's cheat codes; all simple, do-able and hugely entertaining

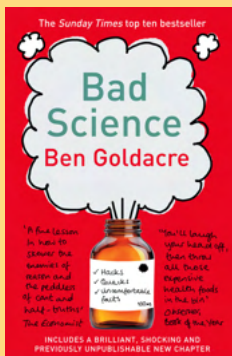


A BLACK WOMEN'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES - BY DAINA RAMEY BERRY AND KALI NICOLE GROSS

A vibrant and empowering history that emphasizes the perspectives and stories of African American women to show how they are--and have always been--instrumental in shaping the United States of America. In centering Black women's stories, two award-winning historians seek both to empower African American women and to show their allies that Black women's unique ability to make their own communities while combatting centuries of oppression is an essential component in our continued resistance to systemic racism and sexism.

IT'S NOT OK TO FEEL BLUE AND OTHER LIES - BY SCARLETT CURTIS

An anthology of writing from more than 60 inspirational people, ranging from comedians to social media influencers, activists to politicians, It's Not OK To Feel Blue shares the inspirational words and thoughts of what mental health means to them.

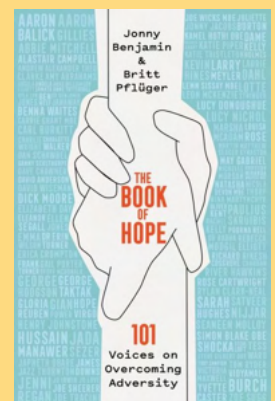


BAD SCIENCE - BY BEN GOLDACRE

Everyone has their own 'bad science' moments, encompassing everything from the useless pie charts on the back of cereal boxes to the use of the word 'visibly' in cosmetics adverts. Full of spleen, Ben Goldacre takes the reader on a hilarious, invigorating and informative journey through the world of bad science.

THE BOOK OF HOPE - BY JOHNNY BENJAMIN AND BRITT PFLÜGER

These 101 key voices in the field of mental health, from the likes of Lemn Sissay, Dame Kelly Holmes, Frank Turner and Zoe Sugg, to Joe Tracini, Elizabeth Day, Hussain Manaver and Joe Wicks, share not only their experiences with anxiety, psychosis, panic attacks and more, but also what helps them when they are feeling low. This joyful collection is a supportive hand to anyone looking to find light on a dark day and shows that, no matter what you may be going through, you are not alone.



BRILLIANT NEW NON-FICTION

BLACK AND BRITISH: A SHORT, ESSENTIAL HISTORY - BY DAVID OLUSOGA

In *Black and British*, award-winning historian and broadcaster David Olusoga offers readers a rich and revealing exploration of the extraordinarily long relationship between the British Isles and the people of Africa. Drawing on new genetic and genealogical research, original records, expert testimony and contemporary interviews, *Black and British* reaches back to Roman Britain, the medieval imagination and Shakespeare's *Othello*.

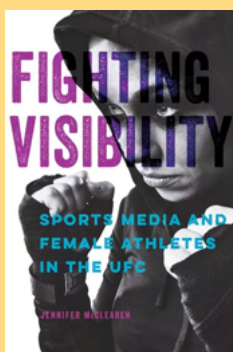


THE GREAT WAR COOK BOOK - BY MAY BYRON

First published in 1915, May Byron's cookery book soon became a classic of wartime cook books. With some 550 recipes, she showed how to make tasty meals from basic, readily available and home-grown products.

THERE IS NO PLANET B - BY MIKE BERNERS-LEE

Completely updated edition brings the reader even more handy tips on how to help combat the climate emergency and other environmental problems. For anyone who yearns for a realistic alternative to the destructive path the world is on, and wants practical advice on how they can make things better.



FIGHTING VISIBILITY - BY JENNIFER MCCLEAREN

Jennifer McClearen charts how the promotion incorporates women into its far-flung media ventures and investigates the complexities surrounding female inclusion. McClearen illuminates how the UFC's half-hearted efforts at representation generate profit and cultural cachet while covering up the fact it exploits women of colour, lesbians, gender non-conforming women, and others.

NUMB AND NUMBER - BY WILLIAM HARTSTON

An entertaining exploration of the misuse of mathematics in our everyday lives that shows how we can combat the rising tide of misinformation. In this simple guide for anyone numbed by numbers, William Hartston reveals with clarity and humour why the figures being flung at us may not tell the whole story. Along the way he explains commonly misused mathematical terms, solves everyday mathematical problems and shows how to steer a safe path through the minefield of mathematics that surrounds us.

