

03 March 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Reading is POWER!

World Book Day is today and this is another opportunity for JOG to:

- a) celebrate the joy of reading;
- b) galvanise students with some shared experiences linked to reading;
- c) encourage students to 'read' in order 'to succeed'.

However, one day where we focus on the power and pleasure of reading is not enough. We know that reading matters every day. Reading for just 20 minutes per day will expose a child to 1,800,000 words per year and mean they are more likely to score in the 90th percentile on standardised texts.

What are we doing to foster a positive reading culture that is accessible to all at JoG?

Tutorial Reading Programme

At JOG, we have our Tutorial Reading Programme, and this is a key way we promote the love of reading. Research tells us that reading aloud challenging texts (those that are above their actual reading capability when reading independently), increases students' understanding of complex syntax, vocabulary and ideas.

The Library

We are extremely lucky to have our wonderful library, supported by the Hampshire Library Service, as a central hub of learning for our school. Here is where the magic happens, overseen by our wonderful librarian Mrs Chester (a published author in her own right!). It is always busy at lunchtimes in here and there are lots of reading and writing related clubs that students can get involved with. Staff can tap into this resource as part of their curriculum delivery, and small group reading takes place in here on a regular basis.

Reading Cloud Online Platform

Reading Cloud is our interactive, online Library, linked to our lovely, well-stocked physical one. Students can access it, through our Teams Portal, with their existing school email and login. Here, they are able to see what books they have borrowed (and which need returning). They can search for and reserve books, as well as linked articles, write reviews of books they have read and generally keep in touch with the Library and Librarian, Mrs Chester. Here, under 'Links', students will also find our eResources, *The Day* online news, debate and curriculum portal and eChalk. Here, too (and most excitingly) is Wheelers eBooks. You will find a range of eBooks AND eAudio books to borrow. You can then read them on your computer or by downloading the App onto your phone or other device.

To find Reading Cloud: from Teams, click on the Sharepoint, Jog Home PH, and the Reading Cloud tile. Login with your normal school email and password. Click on John O'Gaunt School from the dropdown list, and login with your normal school details.

JOG Book-Bites and 'Reading is Power' TEAMS channels:

Every week a new book is flagged up via Tutors and via Classcharts and TEAMS. We call these our JOG Book-Bites. Lots of other recommendations, tips, snippets and interesting videos linked to books and reading are regularly posted on the 'Reading is Power' channel so students can head here to see what reading material might take their fancy.

The Day online newspaper

This is a fantastic resource that provides high quality articles aimed at a Secondary audience. If they don't like fiction, this is a good source of reading material covering a vast array of topics. There is something for everyone here. It can be found on a tile on the 365 homepage.

World Book Day 2022 – Today!

Linked to 'World Book Day 2022' specifically:

- Year Group assemblies have been delivered by Mrs Quigley on 'Reading to Succeed';
- There has been a tutorial focus on the power of a VERY short story linked to the reading skill of inference. Students have been asked to explore some 'Six Word Stories' and then write their own. There is currently a competition being run for the top 3 entries.
- Today, all lessons will start with a portion of short story so that we ALL read a 'Short Story in a Day'
- All students will have been given their WBD book token, allowing them to purchase one of the special WBD books or get £1 off the price of any book of their choice. Please encourage them to support our local bookshop in Hungerford when they purchase their book
- On the 'Reading is Power' channel in your child's TEAMS registration group, there are lots of links and resources, including this week's JOG Book-Bite and some competitions they can enter linked to WBD.
- There is plenty going on in the Library too – Student JOG Book-Bites; Author and Illustrator Masterclasses on the big screen; Reading Cloud demonstrations; Thumbnail Planet Stories; origami bookwork bookmarks!

However, it is worth reiterating that World Book Day 2022 is just one day; we celebrate a positive culture of reading at JOG ALL year. It is central to our curriculum intent, and central to the success of our students.

How can you support your child with reading?

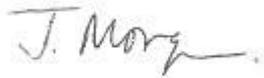
- Apply the evidence around reading aloud challenging texts at home – reading aloud to your child doesn't need to stop at Primary School. It would be fantastic if you could replicate what we are doing with our Tutorial Reading Programme and find some opportunities to read to your child. This will support our endeavours and show your child that you take reading seriously and that you are a reader too! This article by world-renowned educator Doug Lemov puts forward a compelling case in this article here: <http://teachlikeachampion.com/wp-content/uploads/Reading-Aloud.TES.Lemov.pdf>
- Engineer shared reading experiences. Encourage your older children to read aloud to your younger children or to read to a grandparent. Encourage them to record a story to send to a relative who might appreciate this contact or have a shared 'book experience' with your child where you both read the same book and talk about what is happening in it. Sharing the reading experience can be doubly enjoyable!
- There is some evidence to suggest that just putting the subtitles on TV programmes can support your child to strengthen their reading skill, and therefore support their reading will, without them even really being aware of this. It also fosters vocabulary acquisition.
- Join your local library.
- Have a look at the JOG Approach to Active Reading and our use of VIPERS – there is a video explaining this on the website, on our 'Literacy and Communication' tab under Curriculum: <http://www.johnogauntschool.co.uk/241/literacy-and-communication>

- Actively explore 'Reading Cloud' and 'The Day' with your child – know what they are reading and help them to take full advantage of this incredible resource!
- There are lots more tips on the DfE website here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read>
- Use the Guidance from the Education Endowment Foundation: [7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home.pdf \(d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net\)](https://www.eef.org.uk/media/1000/7-Top-Tips-to-Support-Reading-at-Home.pdf)

There is no doubt that reading 'skill' and reading 'will' supports academic success. As the writer Kate DiCamillo is often quoted as saying: 'Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or a duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift.' Frequent, daily reading, with enthusiastic support from school and home is the key to help our children understand the benefits and joy of reading, so that they see themselves as readers.

Best wishes and happy reading!

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Morgan
AVP for Teaching & Learning