

Literacy Parent Forum

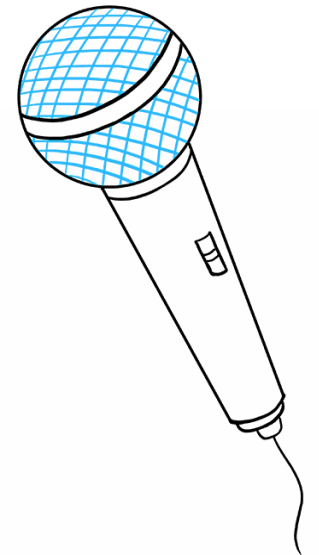
Wednesday 24th January 2024



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What is our goal?

We want our students at Belfairs Academy to become confident readers, powerful and expressive writers and articulate speakers, which they take through to adulthood.



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Reading for Pleasure

- Reading is at first a brain activity, which by the process of time becomes then an activity which brings enjoyment and engagement.
- Reading requires nurture, time and, at times, encouragement.
- We also live in an age of many visual distractions, which at times appears more engaging, and at times easier.
- The question then is, how do we nurture such an activity, to become an inherent part of our days?



We aim to achieve this by:

- fostering a love of the written word in all its creative forms – prose, poetry, drama and non-fiction
- introducing students to a diverse range of texts and authors, including those from other cultures and those published before 1900
- encouraging students to be critical, questioning readers
- equipping students to become proficient and engaging writers across a range of genres
- enabling students to develop wide vocabularies and become competent spellers



Reading core skills

- Understanding meaning – obvious and implied.
- Locating information in a text.
- Using quotations/evidence to support ideas.
- Being able to discuss the effect of a writer's word choices.

How you can help:

- Encourage your child to read regularly and to experiment with different genres e.g. adventure, fantasy, etc.
- Talk to your child about what they're reading – ask them about the plot and characters, for example.
- Ask them about any new or interesting words they have come across.
- Read non-fiction texts (such as diaries, travel writing or biographies), or news articles on topics of interest.



The English Curriculum

In each year group students will study:

- A novel
- A Shakespearean Play
- A selection of Poems
- The short Story Form
- Non-Fiction subjects and writing tasks
- Creative and Fictional Writing
- Speech Writing and Delivery



How much should my child read each day?

According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day see the greatest improvements.

Therefore, your child should have at least 20 minutes set aside for reading during the day.



Healthy discussions about reading:

- Recognition when it is difficult, frustrating.
- Acknowledgement that some books may not be enjoyed.
- Sharing reading journeys / reading experiences
- Extending reading - film versions (film and TV literacy)
- Help extend the characterisation and narrative - ask evaluative questions (why?); the reading to develop extended verbal expression - longer answers, discussion about human behaviour.
- Read biographies where possible, to promote reading stamina and interest, if narrative fiction is problematic.



What other ways can you help your child become a better reader?

- Reading is a skill that needs to be practised in order for progress to be made and sustained.
- Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookshop on a regular basis and by letting your child see you reading.
- If you are able to listen to your son or daughter reading, stop and ask questions to be sure they comprehend what they have read and in general make a habit of discussing books that each of you have read.



Writing core skills

- Write clear sentences which are correctly punctuated.
- Organise ideas into paragraphs.
- Know and use the conventions of different types of written text e.g. news article, letter, persuasive speech, etc.
- Spell simple and more complex words accurately.

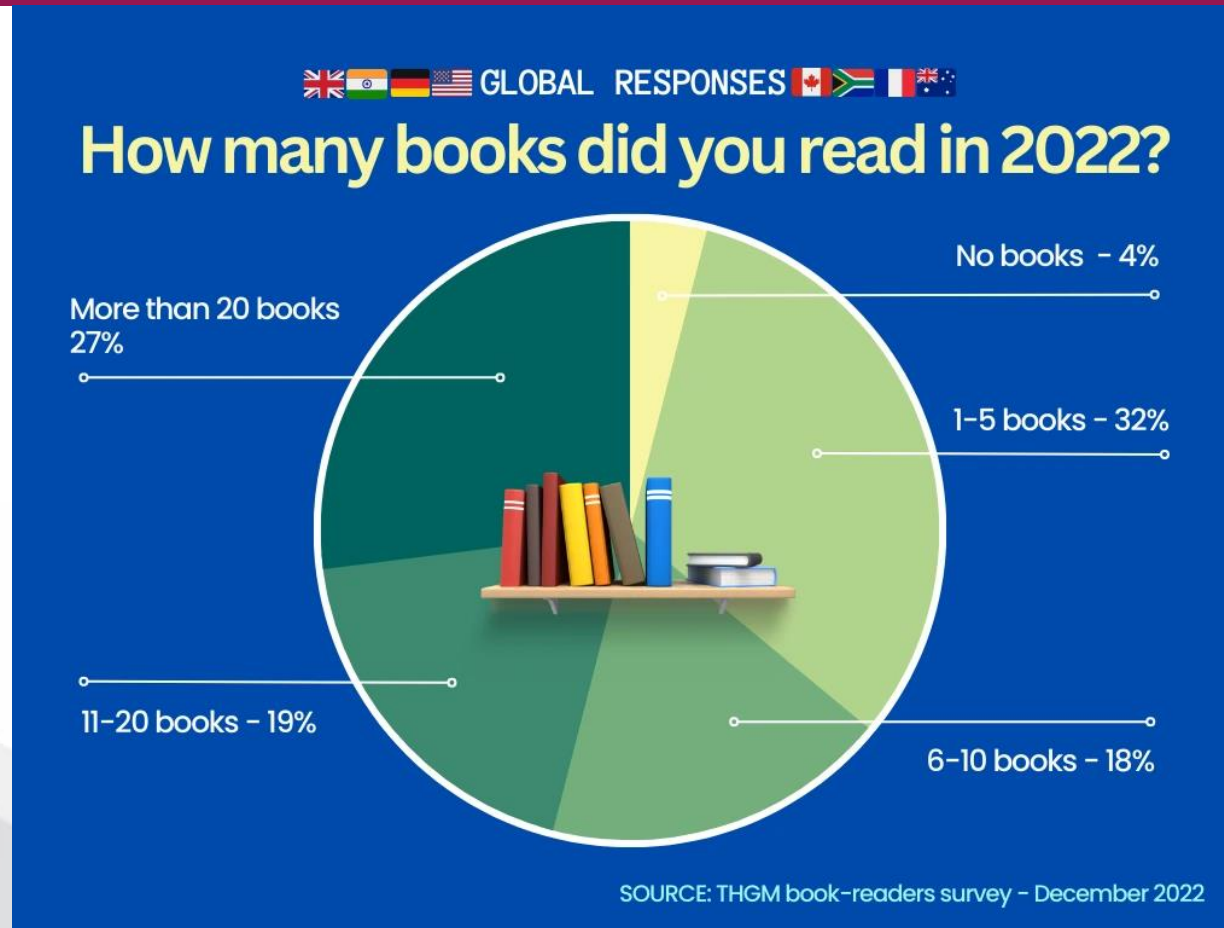


20%

How you can help:

- Encourage your child to proofread their work
- Ask for help or use a dictionary to check tricky spellings
- Keep a spelling list/notebook
- Talk about the layout and style of 'everyday' texts in the home e.g. letters, newspapers, magazines, advertising leaflets, etc.

What is happening globally?



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Encouraging reading via the social media world

- **What Is BookTok?**

- *Popular social media platform TikTok has been creating many trends from viral dances to ASMR videos. It has also skyrocketed popularity for various food and gift items like dalgona coffee or star projectors. On the book front, there have been many titles made popular by #BookTok. BookTok is a hashtag used by creators who feature book recommendations, reviews and memes. For those who can't decide what to read next, #BookTok is the place to go. From "books that will make you sob" to "books I couldn't put down," you'll find a variety of book lists and videos recommending different books to read.*

Other strategies:

- Following authors via instagram / tik tok.
- Following book awards on social media sites
- Following # eg #carnegiebooks
- Following publishing groups eg Penguin books



Having difficulty choosing a book?

<https://www.goodreads.com/award/show/21528-carnegie-medal>

Lot of free downloadable books on:

<https://www.gutenberg.org>

Useful websites:



The Day is an online newspaper for junior readers, full of current news as well as subject-specific pages.

<http://theday.co.uk/>



This useful site has lots of book reviews and suggestions for children of all ages.

<http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>



BBC Bitesize KS3 offers games, tutorials and video clips covering many key skills in English and English Literature.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z3kw2hv> (English)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zykdmp3> (English Literature)



<http://www.channel4learning.com/sites/bookbox/home.htm>



for Spelling games

<http://www.channel4learning.com/sites/fairground/index.shtml>



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