



A reading guide for parents and carers



Why is reading so important?

Research says that children who read are more likely to:

- Overcome disadvantage caused by inequalities
- Be healthier and happier with better mental wellbeing and self-esteem
- Do better at school and make more progress across all subjects
- Develop creativity and empathy

You can read more about this research from the BookTrust [here](#).

In this guide we will explore how we support and promote reading in school and offer guidance on how you can support your children at home.

What do we do in school?

- Our **'reading rich' curriculum** makes sure we use high quality texts in lessons. Teachers show children how to read fluently and teach them ways to understand better by asking them to predict what comes next, ask questions, explaining difficult parts, and summarising what's just been read.
- Teachers use **before/during/after reading strategies**, with the aim of supporting them to understand the texts they teach better. Teachers plan to overcome barriers in taught texts before they teach them, guide students during their reading and then support them to think about what they have read afterwards.
- When reading we **'track the text'** using a ruler to stay focussed on the words.
- **Our whole-school literacy (reading and writing) policy, The 'Keys to Success,'** ensures that reading is embedded in teaching and is visible in every classroom and exercise book.
- We have a **whole school focus on oracy (speaking and**

listening) to support students to improve their vocabulary and be able to articulate what they have read.

- We teach new vocabulary through our **'Sound like an expert' and Choral Response strategies:**

Sound like an expert strategy: This involves encouraging students to use more complex words that experts in a subject would use. It helps students become more familiar with more challenging words, making them sound more knowledgeable about the topic.

Choral response strategy: This method involves students responding or repeating together out loud in unison to questions or prompts from the teacher. It's used to reinforce learning, improve memory of new words, and increase participation and engagement in the classroom.

- We promote **reading in form time through short stories** for fluency and comprehension.
- Students can **borrow books from our library** or **form book boxes**.
- We have a **school partnership with Redcar Library**, where students are invited to become members. Joining Redcar Library also allows students to access a free app called BorrowBox, giving them free access to thousands of online books and audio books. Please see later, in our 12 tips, for information on how to access Borrowbox.
- Our reading for pleasure campaign **'Rye Hills Readers'** gets student's reading beyond the classroom.
- We offer **Reading Rewards on our EASI platform**, all designed to encourage our students to read widely.
- **Fluency reading** (the ability to read text not only accurately but also with speed, proper expression, and understanding) lessons in English and fluency reading homework is set on Microsoft Teams Progress Reader throughout the year.
- Our **Culture Vulture enrichment projects** encourage reading beyond the curriculum.

How do we support our less confident readers?

For less confident readers, we offer a peer tutoring programme and/or personalised and timetabled intervention programmes in the LINK – our literacy and numeracy intervention space (see bottom of page).

What is peer tutoring?

'Fluency For All' is our highly effective peer tutoring reading programme. The programme offers high quality non-fiction texts that not only help with fluency, but also enhance students' cultural capital (a collection of knowledge, behaviours, and skills that a person can use to demonstrate their cultural competence) and knowledge of the wider world.

Year 7 students who find reading challenging are paired with trained reading mentors from Years 9 and 10. During form time, readers choose the extract they wish to read and sit with their tutor for 20-30 minutes reading.

Tutors regularly check the reader's reading fluency and that they understand the texts. Readers also read out loud with their tutor, repeat the text back after the mentor has read it first, and repeat complicated words back to their tutor three times to perfect their pronunciation.

Reading/literacy intervention

The Link

The Link intervention complements the skills students are learning in their English lessons; the purpose is to refine what they have learned and talk through any misconceptions in a smaller group environment. This extra, tailored support by staff, helps students to see how their knowledge can be applied to a variety of texts and subjects.

Read Write Inc Fresh Start

Read Write Inc. Fresh Start is a programme designed to help struggling readers aged 9 – 13+ improve. It breaks down reading and writing into small, manageable pieces, using fun stories and activities. Think of it as a reset button to make reading and writing clearer and more enjoyable for those who've found it tough before.

Fresh Start is for students who:

- are not yet reading age appropriately
- have missed schooling or are late arrivals into school
- are new to the UK education system
- are learning English as an additional language.

Students access daily phonics lessons* for 25 minutes and work over 34-week modules with a range of age-appropriate texts designed to improve overall comprehension, spelling and punctuation skills.

20/20/20

The 20/20/20 programme is designed to support students with small bursts of learning and reading.

Students use spelling strategies based on sounds, high frequency words (words that appear the most in texts) and the ACE spelling programme and common spelling errors.

Some numeracy lessons are also related to reading topics to consolidate learning. Literacy intervention enables students to improve their English grades and feel more confident in their usual lessons.

** Phonics involves matching the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters - for example, the sound k can be spelled as c, k, ck or ch.*

Reading for pleasure

At Rye Hills Academy, you can tell we love reading as soon as you enter. Our classrooms are full of lively discussions about books, and students can explain how their reading is supported in class. Every staff member encourages reading, and we celebrate it throughout the school, in lessons and beyond. Here's how we encourage reading for fun:

Dine and Discuss – students read an interesting article and are posed some thought-provoking questions to promote discussion in the dining hall.

Book vending machine – students can use their reward points to purchase a token to get a book from the machine or can win them in events and projects throughout the year.

Reading Challenges on Microsoft Teams throughout the year, including 12 Days of Reading and Reading Rocks Readathon.

Reading reward card – similar to a loyalty card, students get a stamp for every book they read to earn a book token.

Recommended reading lists for every subject and parent information evenings promote the importance of reading for pleasure.

'What are you reading?' posters around school to prompt discussions with staff.

Regular Scholastic **book fairs and swaps**.

Reading Rocks Week – building on World Book Day – where a series of exciting events and activities takes place every March.

Coming soon:

Expansion of the school library and improvements made to LRC.

Vision screening and optional **sight tests** with opticians for students who need it.

Weekly recommended read


Title
I Must Betray You

Author
Ruta Sepetys

About the book


Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but he lives with the ever-present danger of the secret police and cannot write what he wants to. Soon, he faces an impossible choice: betray his loved ones and become an informant or go rouge and try and expose the truth. Who should he trust? The novel takes readers deep in 1980s communist Romania and explores the themes of oppression, truth and loyalty.

An excellent read for anyone who enjoyed the recent study of Animal Farm.





Reading Rocks Week

Monday 4 - Friday 8 March



RYE HILLS READERS




Name: _____

Your reading credits

Reading Rocks Week

Monday 4th to Friday 8th March

Monday 4th Form Quiz Which Came First Quiz Book Fair Readathon Challenge Literary Treasure Hunt Where's Wally Anagram Challenge Masked Reader	Tuesday 5th Book Cover Quiz Share a story Literary Leo Roll Escape Room Book Fair Readathon Challenge Masked Reader Literary Treasure Hunt Where's Wally Anagram Challenge	Wednesday 6th Character Quiz Literary Leo Roll Staff Book Bake Off Book Fair Readathon Challenge Masked Reader Literary Treasure Hunt Where's Wally Anagram Challenge
Thursday 7th Opening Line Quiz Teacher Dress Up Dice and Dimes Literary Leo Roll Book Fair Readathon Challenge Masked Reader Literary Treasure Hunt Where's Wally Anagram Challenge		Friday 8th Emoji Book Quiz Student Book Bake Off Book Fair Readathon Challenge Masked Reader Literary Treasure Hunt Where's Wally Anagram Challenge

How you can support your child with reading at home

1. **Access Student Pod** – this is a website just for our students which houses lots of resources, including a dedicated reading page where you will find recommended reads, competitions and much more. You can access Student Pod via a link on the home page of EASI.
2. Every topic we teach has an accompanying **one-page summary document called a 'Knowledge Organiser'**. These include key vocabulary and are excellent resources for parents and carers. You can access them via Student Pod.
3. **Encourage your child to use our school library** and to join your local library. Then, download the **BorrowBox reading app**. The app is a fantastic, free reading resource where you can download books, audiobooks and more, all for free. All you need is your library card and pin number. You can also join your local library online, if you aren't able to visit them in person and it takes just a few minutes. Using BorrowBox will enable your child to access a diverse range of great reading material on any electronic device, all from home.
4. You can access the **'Student Curriculum Overviews'** on Student Pod to see what students are currently studying in school then have discussions about what they are learning. You could also encourage reading around the topics through recommended books or websites like BBC Bitesize.
5. **Read books for pleasure with your children** or listen to audio books together.

Before, during, after - reading strategy for parents

By using some of the techniques on the opposite page, you can help your child understand and enjoy their books more through reading together at home.

The 'before,' 'during,' and 'after' reading strategy helps to improve your child's confidence in reading by preparing them for the reading experience, enhancing the reading process itself, and reflecting on the text you have just read together afterwards.

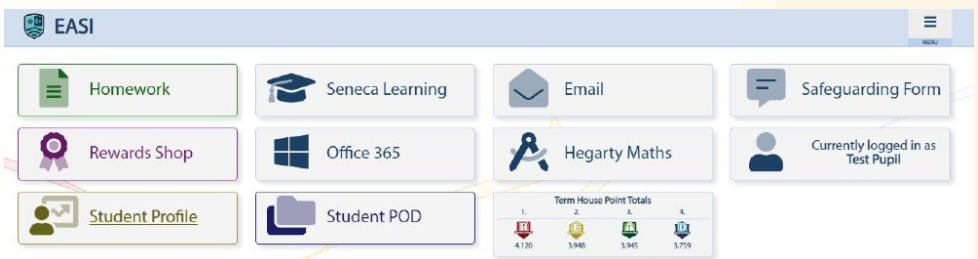
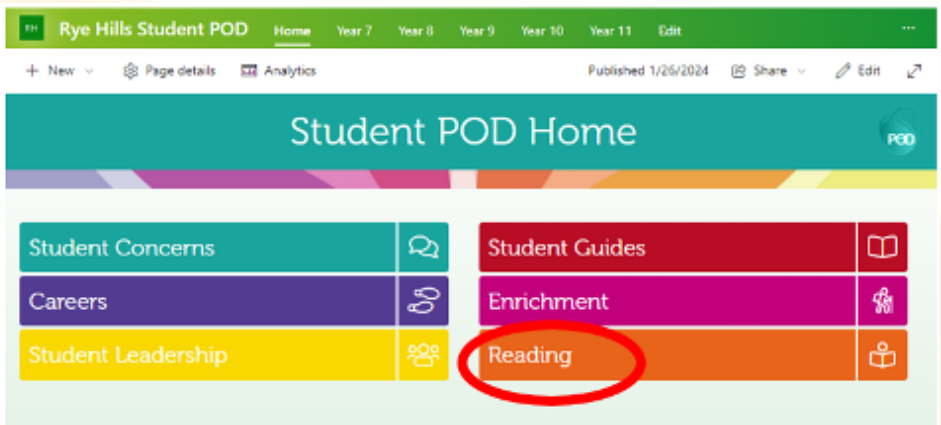
Before	During	After
<p>Question and discuss what your child already knows about the topic you are about to read about.</p> <p>From the title or images – ask your child to predict what the text might be about - why do they think this?</p> <p>Try and teach them some words that could be associated with the text before you start reading – this is called creating a vocabulary bank.</p> <p>Address any misunderstandings they might have about the topic before you start.</p>	<p>Chunk the reading into smaller pieces – after each paragraph stop and discuss what is happening. Pick out some key words to learn.</p> <p>Track the Text – use a ruler or finger to keep your child focussed on the words.</p> <p>Pause to address anything your child does not understand.</p> <p>The best readers are curious readers. Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what is happening in the text. • to predict what they think will happen next, based on what they know so far • how they feel about the people or characters they read about, based on what they know about them. <p>Choral reading – read the text aloud at the same time.</p> <p>Echo reading – read a sentence out loud, then have your child read it back.</p>	<p>Ask your child questions to check they have understood what they have just read.</p> <p>Explain anything they don't understand.</p> <p>Further clarify the meaning of challenging words.</p> <p>Have a discussion based on the topic.</p> <p>Ask your child to summarise the text they have just read – verbally or in writing to consolidate understanding.</p>

Where to find materials:

Student Pod is a website just for our students that includes a range of resources to support their learning outside of school.

As you can see from the image below, there is a dedicated 'reading' area of this website. This area houses our recommended reading lists and other great resources such as student knowledge organisers; form time reading books; our much-lauded book of the half term and all our reading competitions!

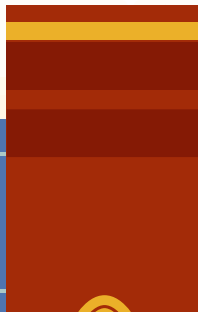
There is also a really handy link to 'BorrowBox', so your child can access as many great reading materials as they want, all for free! Finally, Student Pod can be accessed very easily: just click on the dedicated button in EASI, and it will take you straight there.



Recommended reading lists

Year 7 (Key Stage 3)

- **The Owl Service** by Alan Garner
- **Grendel** by John Gardner
- **Diary of a Young Girl** by Anne Frank
- **Straight Outta Crongton** by Alex Wheatle
- **Frankenstein** by Mary Shelley
- **The Raven** by Edgar Allan Poe
- **The Woman in Black** by Susan Hill
- **Twelfth Night** by William Shakespeare
- **Songs of Innocence and Experience** by William Blake
- **Ruby in the Smoke** by Phillip Pullman
- **Sherlock Holmes** by Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Freedom (1783)** by Catherine Johnson
- **Kick** by Mitch Johnson
- **The Dark is Rising** by Susan Cooper
- **Goldfish Boy** by Lisa Thompson



Recommended reading lists

Year 8 (Key Stage 3)

- **Are You Really Ok?** by Roman Kemp:
- **You are a Champion** by Marcus Rashford:
- **Our Day Out** by Willy Russell
- **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time** by Mark Haddon
- **Noughts and Crosses** by Malorie Blackman
- **A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khaled Hosseini
- **Hamlet** by William Shakespeare
- **A Wrinkle in Time** by Madeline l'Engle
- **In the Sea, there are Crocodiles** by Fabio Gada
- **Flowers in the Gutter** by K R Gaddy
- **The Great Gatsby** by F Scott Fitzgerald
- **To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee
- **The Icarus Show** by Sally Christie
- **I Must Betray You** by Ruta Sepetys
- **Chinese Cinderella** by Adeline Yen Mah

Recommended reading lists

Year 9 (Key Stage 3)

- **Lord of the Flies** by William Golding
- **Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury
- **A Brave New World** by Aldous Huxley
- **Angela Carter's Fairy Stories**
- **Death on the Nile** by Agatha Christie
- **Brick Lane** by Monica Ali
- **White Teeth** by Zadie Smith
- **Telling Tales** by Patience Agbabi
- **I Am Malala** by Malala Yousafzai
- **The Handmaid's Tale** by Margaret Atwood
- **We Should All Be Feminists** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- **The Midwich Cuckoos** by John Wyndham
- **Every Line of You** by Naomi Gibson
- **Catch-22** by Joseph Heller
- **The Catcher in the Rye** by J.D. Salinger

Recommended reading lists

Years 10 & 11 (Key Stage 4)

- **Women and Power** by Mary Beard
- **Dr Faustus** by Christopher Marlowe
- **King Lear** by William Shakespeare
- **Nietzsche Frankenstein** by Mary Shelley
- **Dracula** by Bram Stoker
- **The Fall of the House of Usher** by Edgar Allan Poe
- **Brighton Rock** by Graham Greene
- **Sketches by Boz** by Charles Dickens
- **Alias Grace** by Margaret Atwood
- **Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Bronte
- **And Then There Were None** by Agatha Christie
- **Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens
- **Americanah** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- **The Grasmere Journals** by Dorothy Wordsworth
- **Crossing the Line** by Tia Fisher
- **Paper Butterflies** by Lisa Heathfield
- **Never Let Me Go** by Kazuo Ishiguro
- **Happy Head** by Josh Silver
- **The Westing Game** by Ellen Raskin
- **The Kite Runner** by Khaled Hosseini



