

3rd April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

One of the easiest and most enjoyable ways you can ensure that your child is still learning while schools are closed is **to support them to read every day**. Your child may already be a keen and enthusiastic reader or you may need to support your child to develop new positive reading habits over the coming weeks and months. Either way, there will be information in this letter to support you.

Please use the links below to access the information you need:

[How to access new books for FREE](#)

[How to help your child to choose the right books](#)

[How to make use of TV and film versions of books and involve younger siblings](#)

This week, every student has been sent details of how to take part in a **Virtual Tutor Time Reading Programme**. This will help them to read/listen to a novel for around 20 minutes a day along with the rest of their tutor group and they only need access to YouTube to take part.

After the Easter holidays, we will be launching a **St Paul's Academy Stay at Home Reading Challenge** so that students can log their daily reading and listening achievements and receive rewards for them. There will also be opportunities to take part in a **St Paul's Academy Book Club** where staff and students will read a book together and share ideas and opinions on the books we choose.

Over the coming weeks and months, the National Literacy Trust will be providing families with ideas and guidance for fun, simple activities that will engage your children at home, while also benefiting their reading, writing and language development. You can connect with them at:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/>

Please remember that supporting your child to read each day will benefit their education but also support their mental health during this difficult time: *"Children and young people today face a multitude of pressures at school, at home and in their social lives. It is imperative that we do everything we can to enable our children to develop the resilience they need to cope with life's challenges – and our latest research shows that the joys of reading and writing can be hugely beneficial. Not only does a love of reading and writing enable children to flourish at school, but we now also know it can play a vital role in supporting children to lead happy and healthy lives."* Jonathan Douglas, Director of the National Literacy Trust.

If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year or Head of Learning Zone.

I would like to send my kindest regards to you all. Please keep safe by staying at home where possible.

With best wishes,

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