



WALTON HIGH

Leading Learning

Walnut Tree Campus: Fyfield Barrow Milton Keynes MK7 7WH

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Chair of Governors: Renu Elston
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3 March 2020

JOIN OUR READING REVOLUTION

The **Big Read** 2020

Dear Parents

From 27 February-29 March, we are supporting **World Book Day's Reading is Power** campaign alongside our very own **Big Read 2020**. We will be championing the importance of sharing stories and most significantly how reading gives us power to grow, learn and progress in all aspects of learning.

Why Share a Story?

Sharing a story for just 10 minutes a day can have a lasting impact on a child's future, and can help to create readers for life.

For the first 10 minutes of each English lesson, your child will be reading. To enable this to have the biggest impact on your child, each student needs to bring their own personal reading book either from home or borrowed from the library.

How can you take part?

From the beginning of March, your child will be recording every minute that they read. This running total will be added together at the end of the month across the school to see how many minutes the students of Walton High have read for and celebrate the impact of our reading.

If students choose to read graphic novels, comic books, non-fiction books, magazines or listen to audio books for homework across the month, they can add this to their personal total. Your encouragement for reading at home is essential so that all students see the value and take part in our reading revolution.

Why is this campaign so vital?

- **Sadly, reading for pleasure is in decline:** only 29% of 0-13s read for pleasure daily (down from 30% in 2017). *Children's Reading for Pleasure: Trends and Challenges, Egmont, 2019*
- **The number of parents sharing stories** with their children is also in steep decline: **only 56% of 3-4-year-olds are read to daily** or nearly every day (v. 69% in 2013).
- **Fewer than 19% of 8-10-year-olds are read to daily** or nearly every day (down from 25%). *Understanding the Children's Book Consumer Nielsen, 2018*

There are numerous benefits to sharing stories and being a regular reader:

- It boosts creativity and imagination
- It's a calming experience that improves well-being
- It builds empathy skills
- It expands vocabulary and comprehension to support learning in all subjects
- It's great fun for everyone involved

We hope that you can see the benefits of **World Book Day** and **The Big Read 2020** and we look forward to reporting the reading successes that your child has made this month and beyond.

Thank you for taking part.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "N O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping loop over the "O".

Miss N O'Brien
Leading Teacher of English