



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
Respect
Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

Dear Parent/Carer

We are really pleased to be back in the classroom with your children, and are looking forward to supporting our students as they continue to develop and progress in English.

Texts

Due to present circumstances, we have decided to issue students with the texts they are studying. This means that your child will be responsible for looking after their copy of the text, bringing it to English lessons, and making sure it is returned at the end of the unit. As I am sure you are aware, we are unable to cover the cost of any lost books, so should the text not be returned we will have to ask for a replacement, or the cost of the book. We feel it is important that in the event of your child being asked to isolate, or if the year group is asked to isolate, or in the event of a local or national lockdown, your child will be able to continue their English work at home with ease.

Reading Age

In order to be able to support your son/daughter in developing their reading skills, students undertake a quick, multiple choice test which provides us with a reading age. It also identifies specific areas of strength and weakness, this provides teachers with valuable information about where to provide support and challenge. Year 7 students will be taking this test during the Autumn term, Year 8 students during the Spring term, and Year 9 during the Summer term. When the tests have been completed we will be in touch again to let you know the outcome. Students do not need to prepare for this test, it is designed to assess their natural ability. I am pleased to say that most students enjoy it, and they do not find it in the least bit stressful.

Reading

As you know, we are really proud to be a school that embraces the importance of reading and the whole staff aim to share their enjoyment of reading with the students in our care. Many parents ask how they can support their child's reading at home. The best advice we can give you is to maintain the reading habit, finding some time during each day to read is immensely valuable. Reading can be a great way to unwind before going to bed, for example.

Talking about the books you have enjoyed, or articles you've read and found interesting is another fantastic way to encourage reading at home. These discussions also develop many other reading skills such as decoding and summarising. Asking: 'What was it about the article you found interesting?' Discussing alternative perspectives. Asking which part of their reading today they really enjoyed, or found amusing, or scary. What was it about the language that caused their reaction? When they finish a book: did it end in the way they expected? Asking why in response to their answers, can help your son/daughter to really reflect on their reading.

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Should your child be a reluctant reader, they can listen and follow along to an audio book, or you can share the reading at home. If your child struggles to find something they enjoy, I would recommend that they speak to their teachers – If PE or History is their favourite subject, their teacher might be able to recommend something they would enjoy. Our librarian is excellent, and another source of great reading recommendations.

There are over 273,000 words in the English Language! Asking your son/daughter to keep a glossary of new vocabulary is another excellent way to develop their knowledge and understanding.

You can access our recommended reading lists on the school website, and if you have an Instagram account we'd love you to follow [dear_imberhorne](#). I use the Instagram account to recommend a wide variety of books to our students, from Year 7 to Year 13.

As always, should you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact your child's English teacher. You can also contact me: ebest@imberhorne.co.uk or Miss Murray, KS3 leader: pmurray@imberhorne.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. E. Best
Leader of Learning - English