

Reading at Hebburn Comprehensive School

At Hebburn Comprehensive School we recognise the importance of reading as an essential skill that enhances the life chances of pupils. Research shows that children who read for pleasure not only perform better academically, but have better social and empathy skills, and are more likely to be successful in later life. As such, reading is given the highest priority at Hebburn Comprehensive and we are proud of the reading culture that we have developed. Below is a snapshot of what reading looks like at HCS:

	Guided reading during Morning Meetings	Library lessons for Years 7 and 8	Author Talks and Workshops	Our own school book award (launching Sep 24)	
Scholastic Book Fairs	Book clubs and reading groups	Study of rich texts across different cultures and time periods in English		World Book Day celebrations	School librarian programme
	A fully-stocked school library with a full-time librarian	Disciplinary literacy (every teacher is a teacher of reading)	Reading awards and certificates	Hundreds of comics, graphic novels, manga and dyslexia-friendly books	

To ensure your child gets off to the best possible start with their reading, they will complete a short reading assessment during their transition visit. This will provide us with an accurate measurement of your child's reading ability, which we will use to:

- 1. Contribute to determining where they are best placed academically** (administering the reading assessment during transition day typically provides more accurate results compared to taking the test in September after six weeks off from school).
- 2. Establish your child's reading level, which they will be given in their library induction in September** (the books in our library are colour-coded based on their complexity, making it easy for pupils to find books that are appropriately challenging).
- 3. Identify which pupils require additional support with their reading** so we can map literacy provision right away to ensure the best chances for pupils to catch-up and avoid falling further behind.

The assessment your child will take is called STAR Reading and is used by thousands of schools across the country. It is a quick online multiple-choice test which is completed on our school computers and uses adaptive questioning to accurately determine your child's reading ability. It typically takes around 15-20 minutes to complete.

Supporting your child's reading

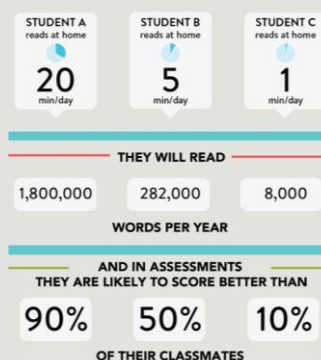
Establishing regular reading routines will help your child make the most progress with their reading. Here are some of Mr Owens's top tips support your child's reading at home:

1 Encourage your child to read for 20 minutes per day.

Pupils at HCS are expected to read for **20 minutes each day** in order to keep pace with a secondary school curriculum.

Did you know?

Research shows that reading for just 20 minutes a day can make the difference between being in the top 10% of the class vs. the bottom 10% of the class in end-of-year assessments.



2 Let your child read what interests them!

It's important to let your child choose what to read, rather than making them read what you think they should read. As a child, I was obsessed with the Captain Underpants books. They were full of silly illustrations and toilet humour, and certainly not what you'd call "highbrow literature", but they got me hooked on reading – and that's what's important!

Once children are happy to read, they'll branch out into other authors and genres if they feel supported. In addition to chapter books and non-fiction, our school library stocks a wide range of comics, manga and magazines. Why? Because they are all valid forms of reading!

We understand the concern that comics and illustrated books might not offer the same challenge as novels, but it's important to remember that reading is first and foremost a form of entertainment. Once we know what your child enjoys, we can work with them to find longer, more complex books that will stretch their literacy skills and spark their imagination!



3 Register with your local library

By registering with your local library, you can access their physical book collections, as well as their eBooks, audiobooks and online magazines. Most libraries offer book clubs and other events, and their skilled librarians will be able to recommend books to match your child's interests. You can register in person or online: prism.librarymanagementcloud.co.uk/southtyneside/join



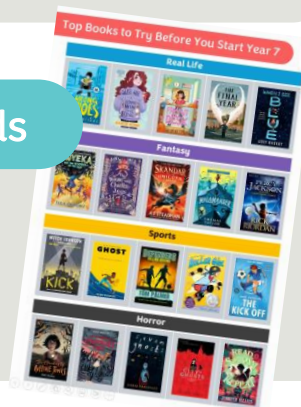
4 Try a 'Choose Your Own Adventure' Book

If your child loves gaming but won't pick up a book, try a **'Choose Your Own Adventure'** story. The Fighting Fantasy books of the 80s are by far the most popular (and have been updated and republished for children today), but there are other adventure books out there too. Unlike typical novels, these books allow the reader to make choices about what happens in the story. Some involve rolling a dice to determine which page to turn to next, and some even allow the reader to create their own character and assign scores to their skill, stamina and luck. **It's like a video game in a book** and provides hours of entertainment!



5 Take a look at our recommended transition reads

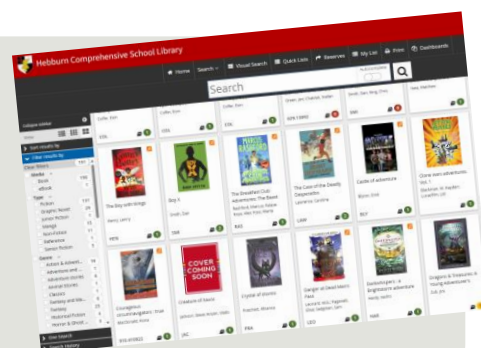
At the end of this booklet, you'll find some of my top reading recommendations for pupils joining us in September. These books are perfect to read over the summer in preparation for secondary school, and there's guaranteed to be something for everyone.



6 Check out our library webpage

Take a sneak peek of some of the books we stock in our library by visiting our web app over at <https://uk.accessit.online/hbb00>

Our library web app (AccessIt) has our full library catalogue, as well as links to podcasts, audiobooks, and more. Have a go at making a list of some of the books you'd like to check out when you join us in September!



7 Visit your local bookshop

According to the National Literacy Trust, around 1 in 5 children do not own a book, and in a survey with HCS pupils in Years 7 and 8, we found that almost a third of pupils haven't visited a bookshop.

Research shows there is a clear link between book ownership and children's future success in life so we strongly recommend taking your child to a bookshop where possible to browse the shelves and discover something they will enjoy.

The following local bookshops have an excellent range of children's books and knowledgeable booksellers:

- The Bound (Whitley Bay)
- Seven Stories (Ouseburn, Newcastle)
- W H Smith (Newcastle)
- Waterstones (Newcastle and Metrocentre)



8 Take an active interest in your child's reading

Share a story together, listen to your child read, or discuss their reading book with them. Model reading at home and set aside time for the whole family to settle down with a book and enjoy 20-30 minutes of reading.



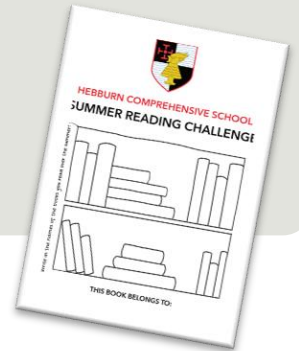
9 Establish a reading routine

Children find it easier to get into the habit of reading if they form a reading routine. Set aside a specific time in the day just for reading and stick to it. Research suggests that reading before bed helps children get a better night's sleep, so we recommend setting an electronics curfew and encouraging pupils to read before going to sleep.



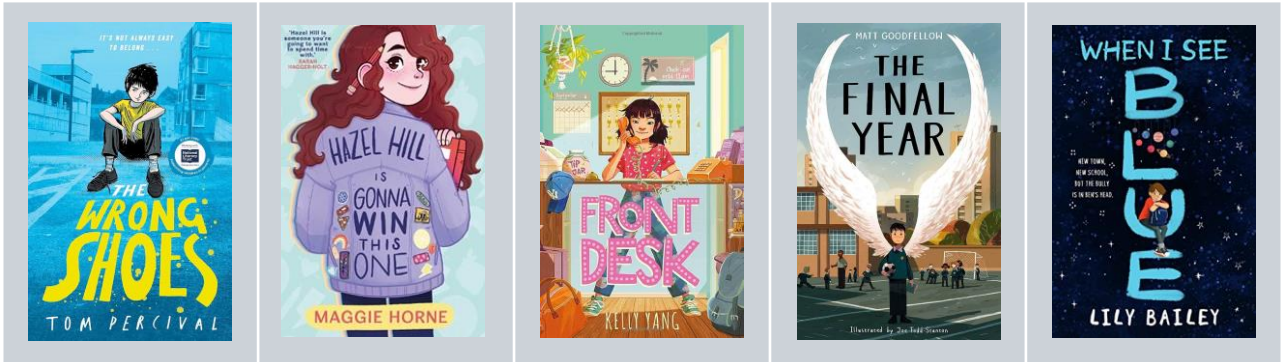
10 Encourage your child to take part in our Summer Reading Challenge

Our summer reading challenge is perfect for keeping pupils reading over the summer, and it's packed full of fun activities, reading challenges and recommended books. Encourage your child to take part and return their completed challenge booklet to be entered into a prize draw in the Autumn term.

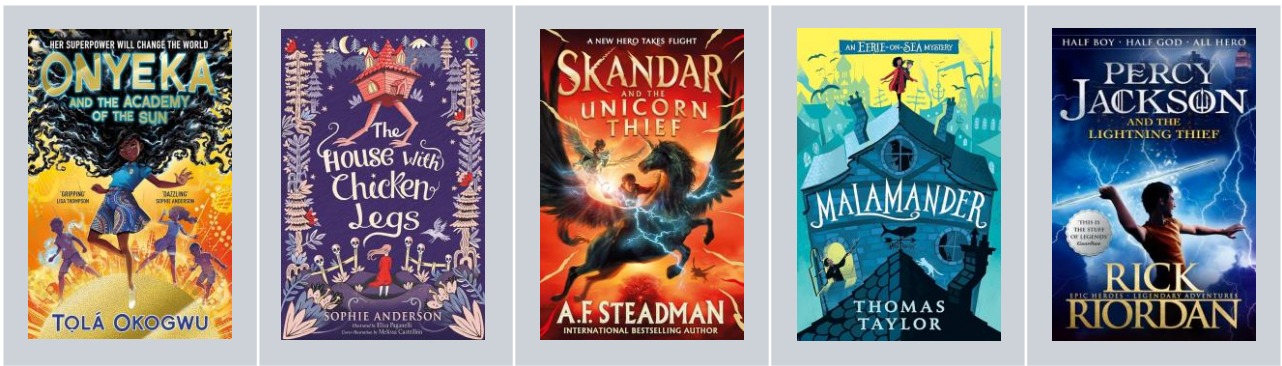


Top Books to Try Before You Start Year 7

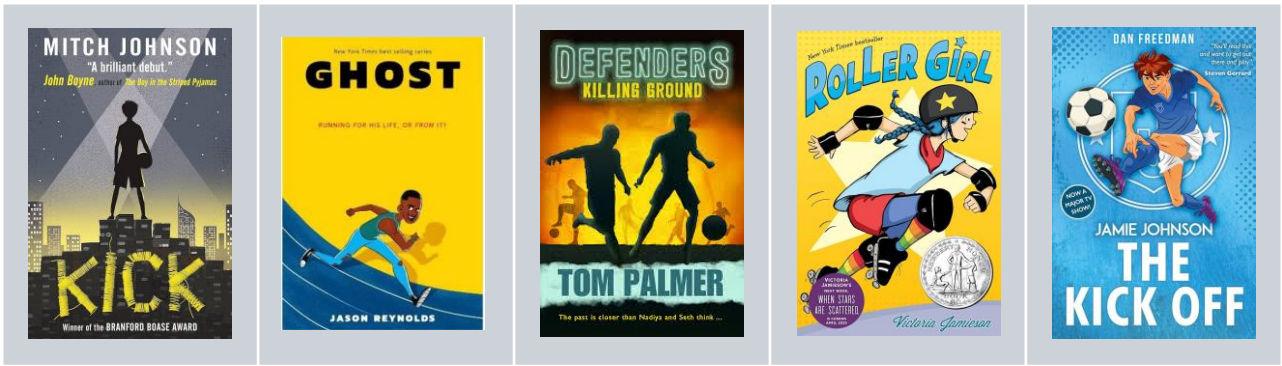
Real Life



Fantasy



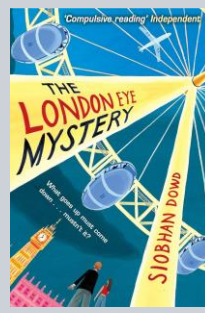
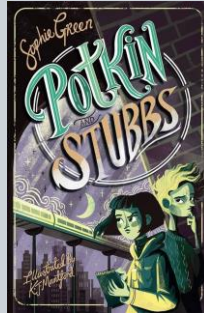
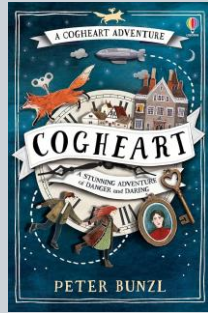
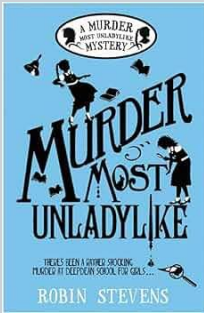
Sports



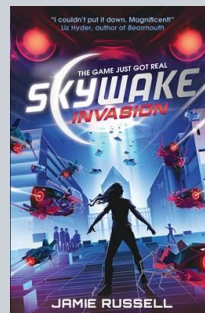
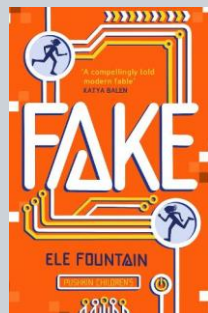
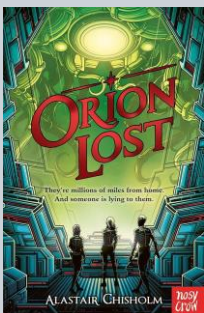
Horror



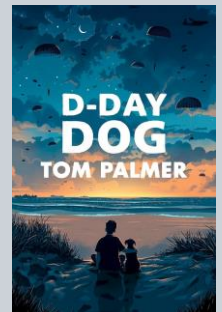
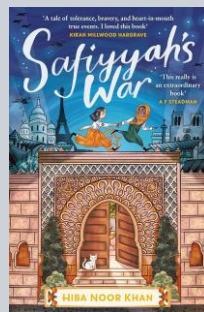
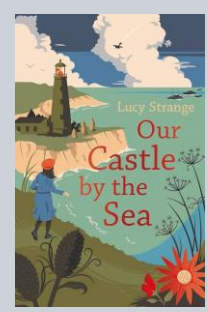
Mystery



Sci-Fi



Historical



Humour

