



20 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

While we all continue to try and juggle a balance of work, school work and home life during this lockdown and as it eases, I thought it might be nice to think about some easy ways to help with reading skills.

As parents of secondary students, we may start to feel that we can step back and allow them to read on their own, however evidence suggests that they still need some encouragement and support with their reading skills and their reading choices.

Reading for pleasure gives us an escape, lets us visit other worlds, countries and cultures and is a way of exploring complex issues in society. It is also an enjoyable way of ensuring that reading skills and vocabulary knowledge continue to improve. The Literacy Trust has said that reading helps our mental health and much research suggests that children who enjoy reading do well at school and adapt well to the academic texts they have to read for exams. A love of reading, however, does not necessarily happen on its own.

Please find the documents attached that suggest strategies to help support your children with reading. Indeed, this help could be purely selfish and an opportunity to discuss and share a book you love, or an interesting article you have read. I have tried to give you some ideas on the sorts of questions you might ask but I am available for more support and ideas, should you need them. The school Library has a packed website with ideas for books and library staff are on hand for support too. It would be great to have some feedback about what you do to help encourage your children with reading at home. I hope to get this on Twitter later this week so you could share your ideas there too.

Any questions please email me on soakley@plymstockschool.org.uk

I really look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Oakley
LITERACY COORDINATOR

