



Pudsey
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School

Literacy Information

Overview of the evening



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- To share the Key Stage Three English curriculum.
- To give advice as to the types of help parents can give their children with regards to their literacy skills.
- To provide tips and guidance about certain aspects of literacy.
- To answer queries you may have regarding literacy.

What does the term 'literacy' mean?



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- Simply put it is the 'ability to read and write'.
- For some pupils this isn't as simple as it suggests and we need to work together to help them achieve this.
- For some pupils they can read and write so we need to be encouraging them to further widen their vocabulary and use more sophisticated language.

Why is this important?



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- 1 in 6 adults struggle with their literacy- ie below the level of an 11 year old.
- A quarter of children and young people don't see the link between reading and success.
- Boys don't enjoy writing as much as girls (38% v 52%).
- 30% of 5-8 year olds read a book daily.
- 17% of 15-17 year olds read a book but are more likely to read blogs, websites and newspapers.

Key Stage 3 English



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- At Key Stage 3 we cover the following topics:

Year 7

- Animal Farm
- Love and conflict
- Ghostly encounters
- A Midsummer Night's Dream

Key Stage 3 English



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- Year 8
- Our World
- Blood Brothers
- Traces of Evidence
- To Kill a Mockingbird

All schemes of learning are on the school's website.

By the end of Key Stage 3 English we expect students to be able to:



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- Read skilfully, drawing on a number of a reading strategies, such as inferring, deciphering meaning, responding to challenging texts and analysing content.
- Write effectively, using accurate and effective vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar, adapting their writing to different forms, audiences and purposes, with creative and imaginative content.
- Communicate skilfully, using a range of different verbal and non verbal strategies to express themselves in a range of situations with a range of audiences.

Literacy across the curriculum



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- Being literate isn't just confined to English.
- Exams across the subjects are more rigorous with spelling, punctuation and grammar being increasingly a major factor in deciding grades.
- Therefore, students need to be in the habit of checking their work in **all** subjects for their spelling, punctuation and grammar.

How can you help?



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- **Homework**
- Discuss what your child has been given for homework and check if they understand what they need to do.
- Read through their work to check for basic errors.
- See if there are any ways in which they can extend their homework.

How can you help?



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- Writing -
- Are there basic punctuation errors that they need to address?
- Could they extend their work further?
- Have they used sophisticated language to show their deeper understanding of the topic?
- Have they used the key words of the topic in the work and in the correct context?

What should you check for?



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- Full stops and capital letters.
- New paragraphs when there is a change of topic or idea.
- Homophones - words that sound the same but have different spellings and have different meanings. For example there/they're/their, where/wear (and were), been/being.
- Would have/could have rather than would of/could of.
- Apostrophes.
- That they are using complex sentences.
- Formal language is being used throughout.

How can you help?



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- **Reading** -
- As part of English homework, we expect each students to read for an hour a week and the parents to sign the planner to say this has been done.
- Therefore, discuss what your child is reading at the moment. Ask them what it is about, are they enjoying it, would they recommend it?
- **We have reading lists that have suggested recommended reading for students in year 7.**

Rewards



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- Rewards - At the end of each half term, we will be nominating 'Reading Stars'.
- These will be students who have made the most progress in their reading (not necessarily the students who have read the most.)

Intervention



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- Identified students who have a lower than reading age of 10 will have targeted intervention.
- This includes targeted support with our LSA's and 'rapid reading'.

How can you help?



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- Speaking and listening
- Try to encourage your child to use more sophisticated language at certain times. For example, when watching the news, ask their opinion about an item. Encourage them to use more formal language in their expression.

Some websites that may be of help with your child's literacy work:



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- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>