



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

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readathon



Dear Parent/Carer

4th January 2017

From **Monday 9th January until Monday 20th February** this year, all of Year 8 will be taking part in **Readathon**. This is a sponsored read in which students set themselves a reading challenge and get sponsored by others to achieve it. We hope that one of the results of this will be that students will get very excited about reading and that, no matter what their reading ability, they will each challenge themselves to try reading something new. Hopefully, the focus on reading over the term will help to establish life-long reading habits. As well as giving a great deal of pleasure, regular independent reading is proven to have a positive impact on students' work in school across the entire curriculum and on their future achievement.

Readathon is a registered charity. The details of the organisations that it works with are on the sponsorship form your child is bringing home and also on their website – www.readathon.org. As well as raising money for charity, there is the added benefit that the school will be able to claim free books worth 20% of the sponsorship total.

Before the sponsored read begins, students will list the books that they intend to read on the sponsorship form. This will be done with the support and advice of your child's English teacher. From the week beginning 9th January onwards, they can all start reading and securing sponsorship from willing family and friends. We would be grateful if parents and carers, along with teachers and tutors, could make sure that students really are reading what they say they are reading!

Over the course of the *Readathon* period:

- Students should have their **current reading book with them every day in school**.
- They will be given some tutor time to get on with their reading.
- There will be the opportunity for students to do some of the reading in English lessons.
- There will be a time each week when the Library will be open exclusively for *Readathon* participants.
- We would like students to use spare time at home to read. **The final week of the challenge is half-term week, which gives students plenty of spare time to finish off.**
- We encourage students to use the school library and their local library to obtain books and also to arrange book swaps with classmates.
- If you'd like to get some ideas from the English department's suggested reading list, you can find it on the school website. We want to get students reading all kinds of books: fiction, non-fiction, poems, plays and short stories are all fine (magazines won't count, however!).
- E-books are fine and students can bring them in the form of Kindles to use in school. However, they will **not be able to read from mobile phones during school time.**

Students should return money and sponsorship cards in to school from Monday February 20th. Cheques should be made payable to 'Readathon'. We will send out a reminder of this, with a deadline, nearer to the time. Thank you in advance for your support of a really worthwhile project.

Yours sincerely

Jane Bird
English Department

“Inspiring children to read is one of the greatest gifts you can give them. I'd recommend Readathon to anyone.”

Julia Donaldson, author and former Children's Laureate

Improving lives through sponsored reading

