

# St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



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Dear Parents and Carers

## RE: Reading at St Matthew Academy

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As we embark on another exciting academic year in the primary phase, I wanted to take a moment to emphasize the profound importance of reading regularly with your child at home.

Reading is not just a fundamental life skill; it is the cornerstone of your child's education and their own personal development. It is a journey that begins at home, which we nurture in school. Your active involvement in this journey can make a profound difference in your child's life.

Why reading with an adult at home is crucial:

- It builds strong foundations for their literacy development. It enables them to understand the basic principles of language, including vocabulary, grammar and sentence structure.
- It stimulates imagination; allowing children to transport to different worlds. It allows them to explore new ideas, cultures and perspectives which broadens their horizons.
- Reading enhances children's cognitive skills – improving critical thinking, problem-solving and reasoning. It encourages them to ask questions, make connections and think deeply about what they have read.
- Numerous studies have shown a strong correlation between early reading experiences and academic achievements. Children who read regularly at home tend to perform better in school across all subjects.
- It strengthens the bond between parent and child allowing you to spend quality time with your child.

To support your efforts in creating a reading-friendly environment at home, here are some top tips:

- Set a reading routine: establish a regular reading time.
- Choose age-appropriate texts – visit your local library to explore a wide variety of options.
- Ask your child questions and encourage them to engage with the story by asking you questions.
- Be a reading role model; let your child see you reading for pleasure.
- Celebrate achievements in their reading milestones, whether it's finishing a book, learning new words or reading aloud with confidence.

At St Matthew Academy, we truly believe that a strong partnership between parents and teachers is vital for the holistic development of our pupils. We are here to support you in any way we can, so please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further guidance on how to nurture your child's love for reading.

Yours faithfully

Miss T Roostan

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