Welcome to our first reading newsletter! We will publish an updated newsletter each term to keep you up to date with what’s happening in school and to provide recommendations and resources to students.

Parent information

Here’s a brief list of everything you need to know about reading at Gospel Oak:

- All students in KS3 complete 1.5 hours of Accelerated Reader each week (this takes place in tutor time and English lessons) - please encourage them to continue this reading at home and check their reading log in their planner.
- Reciprocal Reading (a strategy to improve comprehension) is used by staff when using new text in lessons and is a regular focus for homework. More information on this next edition.
- KS5 students have been trained as reading buddies for students in Y7.
- Students in every year group are currently taking online reading tests to update their reading age. This will allow us to deliver bespoke interventions where necessary.

Recommended Reads

**KS3**

| The Watcher in the Shadows by Carlos Ruiz Zafon | Irene’s family moves after her father dies and her mother gets a job as housekeeper for enigmatic toymaker. Strange events and figures, mechanical and shadowy creatures, chases...an exciting story! |

**KS4**

| Poor by Caleb Femi (poetry) | Caleb writes about life growing up on an estate in North Peckham. He describes what it’s like to be young and black growing up in a concrete jungle. |

**KS5**

| Pink Mist by Owen Sheers | Three young soldiers from Bristol are deployed to Afghanistan. Within a short space of time they return to the women in their lives (a mother, a wife, a girlfriend), all of whom must now share the psychological and physical aftershocks of their service. |

Fact!

Reading for pleasure is more important for children’s cognitive development than their parents’ level of education and is a more powerful factor in life achievement than socio-economic background.

(Sullivan and Brown, 2013)

To log in, go to: https://www.myon.co.uk/login/ and enter your username and password. If you need help with this, pop and see Mr Waltho in the LRC.

For further recommendations, please visit: https://funkypedagogy.com/the-reading-list-project-teachers-helping-teachers/
The LRC
The library is now open! You can drop in before school (8:00—8:20), at break time and at lunch time. There are clubs running each day after school so please check the rota to see what’s on.

Please return any books from last year to the LRC.

Parent Workshop
We will be hosting our first ever parent workshop in the Spring term on a Saturday morning. This will be an opportunity for you to see the reading environments in school, see how our interventions run and gain some expert advice on what you can do at home to support your child’s achievement through reading.

Look out for a letter containing all the important details later this term!

Staff Spotlight
Teacher: Miss Capewell
Department: English
Room: S5

Miss Capewell has created some amazing reading displays in her classroom that encourage and promote reading. Pop up to S5 to check out:
◆ What Miss has been reading lately
◆ The best book to film adaptations
◆ Recommendations of texts to develop your knowledge of topics studied in English

Reading, and the love of reading, is a fundamental part of my life, and therefore a crucial part of my classroom and my teaching. It is of the utmost importance to me to spread and share my love for reading with my students, as it helps many of them accept their love for reading, and also inspires others to choose new books or genres. I am always happy to speak to students about books that I have read or would like to read, and I am always more than willing to give them more information on a genre of book. I feel that fostering and nurturing a love for reading in children only enhances their life experiences and prospects, which is why many of the displays in my room cater for this. I also track my own reading in my classroom in order to model good reading behaviours and prompt curiosity and questions about my recent reads.