



**Ready, Respectful, Resilient**

Headteacher: Mrs T Price BA (Hons) MA Ed

16 January 2026

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Thank you for the feedback we've received regarding our approach to reading for pleasure. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide some clarification and share how we support this important aspect of learning at James Bateman.

We are proud to have built a strong reading culture within our school. Research consistently shows that reading for pleasure has a significant impact on student outcomes—not only academically, but also in terms of mental and physical well-being. For this reason, we work tirelessly to ensure that students have as many opportunities as possible to engage with reading.

In addition to the reading opportunities built into the school day, we kindly ask that all students read at home for a minimum of 15 minutes each day. We also warmly welcome parents and carers reading to or with their child daily, as this shared experience can greatly support progress and help nurture a lifelong love of books.

Here are some of the ways we promote reading for pleasure:

- A well-stocked library, regularly updated with new releases.
- Students have daily access during break and lunch, plus 30 minutes of scheduled lesson time each week.
- Daily 'Drop Everything And Read' (DEAR)—15 minutes of protected time during lessons for students to relax with a book.
- Form time reading four days a week, where form teachers read aloud to their classes.
- Regular discussions about favourite books and authors.
- Rewards for reading, including house points, badges, certificates, and special events.
- Our Reading Crew, with representatives from each form, who help peers discover new books and suggest titles for our librarian to purchase.
- KS3 audiobook club every week.

To help us track and celebrate reading achievements, we use Accelerated Reader. This program allows students to quiz on books they've read, helping us to identify where support is needed and to also reward progress.

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Unfortunately, we have recently noticed some misuse of 'Accelerated Reader' by a small number of students. This undermines the hard work of the majority, so we're taking steps to clarify expectations.

Please see the attached poster, which will also be displayed in classrooms and discussed with all students. If you have any questions or would like further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a love of reading.

Lara Jones  
English Curriculum Lead