



ABBEY PARK SCHOOL

Thursday 20th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 8 Reading Challenge: After the War by Tom Palmer

As a school we have been focusing in lessons and within the English curriculum on literacy and reading as key tools for pupils learning and engagement in all academic areas as well as social skills as they prepare for careers and studies beyond their life here at Abbey Park. Following a successful pilot of a year group reading project with year 7 we are excited to now launch this with year 8 and 9 as we continue to invest and equip pupils with a range of texts to develop a pleasure for reading and increase vocabulary and confidence in literacy skills.

Reading is a fundamental tool for all of us and is a skill that we all need to continue to develop. Reading for pleasure is a tool for:

- Enjoyment
- Reducing anxiety and allowing yourself to learn as well as escape in a book that captures you
- Developing reflection skills – allowing you to reflect on topics from a different angle.

Year 8 Reading Challenge: After the War

This term year 8 will be given a copy of 'After the War' by Tom Palmer as part of their school library book allocation. The book is set just after WW2 and follows the stories of three boys as they rehabilitate after having survived the Nazi concentration camp – Auschwitz. The boys along with others have been rescued and brought to England and are placed in the Lake District to begin their recovery. This term in English lessons year 8 are studying the text 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' and so these two texts relate to one another with the striped pyjamas being a story of the camp within the war and the recovery of those rescued from the camps after the war.

When your child collects their book there is a reading summary to help consider the book and where possible we would encourage parents and guardians to read with your child together and / or individually and then discuss the themes of the books as this can really engage readers in searching and discussing the detail and how it relates to our lives today.

This week your child will receive the following in their English lesson:

1. A copy of 'After the War' – this will be a library issue to be returned at the end of the challenge.
2. A copy of the reading guide – you may use and write on this. It is for your own reflections and use as a family.

This is a very exciting project and also links into the use of the Go Read App where pupils are tracking their reading and showing evidence of how they are developing their skills as well as reviewing texts that they have read. Each term new books will be issued to your child and they will have this text until the start of term 4 when they will return 'After the War' and collect the next text. We hope you enjoy 'After the War' and its links to your studies this term in English lessons.

We hope you enjoy this terms reading challenge,

Mrs Hunter

Vice Principal



Principal: Mr J Young
Vice Principal: Mrs L Hunter

The Learning Campus, Redhouse Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN25 2ND
Tel: 01793 705400
email: admin@abbeyparkschool.org.uk