

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you and your families are all well. We are in yet another lockdown – which, unsurprisingly, has extended too. At this difficult time, it is important students are looking after their health and well-being as well as continuing with their learning.

Therefore, we want to make sure students are still reading during lockdown as research consistently tells us that reading for pleasure improves well-being. Therefore, there is no more important time than now to encourage your child to be reading. Furthermore, there are not only health benefits to reading for pleasure as we all know how much reading abilities and regular reading habits can positively impact on children's attainment in school.

Therefore, we have set up a 'Lockdown Library' which aims to promote reading while the lockdown continues and offer support to parents to help students with their reading.

We understand how hard it is to get reluctant children and teenagers to read when a phone screen, or tablet, or PC, or games console offers easy and instant gratification. If your child has never really enjoyed reading and sees it as something they consider as 'work', getting them to start can be a challenge.

Our challenge at Bramhall High School has been to create a culture where reading is seen as not only something that we all do for pleasure, but also something which we understand can help us to succeed in all subjects.

As author Bali Rai puts it: *"Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones mostly likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed – it's that simple."*

Therefore, I have provided 'Lockdown Library' advice and links to help you support your child reading for pleasure at home in their spare time. As JK Rowling said: *"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book."*

I hope you make use of some of the tips and resources attached to encourage and maintain the reading habits that best suits your family. Students may also find the advice and FAQ section for 'students' useful.

Your continued support, as ever, is much appreciated.

Best wishes,

Mrs Dranfield

Whole School Literacy Co-ordinator.