

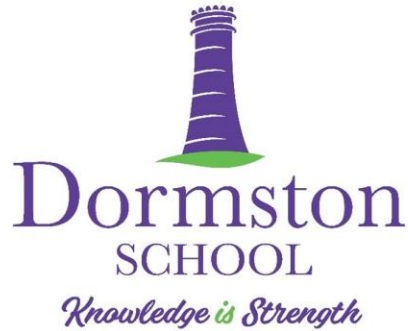
Our Ref: DFX/KON

May 2026

YEAR 7 – 10 PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: National Year of Reading 2026



You may have seen news reports recently that 2026 is the National Year of Reading, a UK-wide campaign organised by the Department of Education designed to inspire more people to make reading a regular part of their lives. Sadly, reading is an activity that is declining amongst young people and a recent survey by the National Literacy Trust revealed some shocking statistics.

Reading enjoyment:

In 2024, the percentage of children and young people who said they enjoyed reading was its lowest since we started asking about this in 2005.

- just 1 in 3 (34.6%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said that they enjoyed reading in their free time in 2024. Reading enjoyment levels have decreased by 8.8 percentage points over the past year alone;
- slightly more children and young people aged 8 to 18 said that they enjoyed reading at school (40.5%) than in their free time (34.6%).

Reading frequency:

- only 1 in 5 (20.5%) 8 to 18-year-olds said that they read something daily in their free time in 2024, again, the lowest levels we've recorded since 2005, with daily reading levels decreasing by 7.5pp in the last year alone.

The link with reading skill (8 to 14s only):

In 2024, we were able to match survey and reading-skill (Star Reading) data for 3,861 children and young people aged 8 to 14. This allowed us to show that in terms of reading enjoyment:

- children and young people who enjoyed reading (n = 1,211; M = 109.13) had higher average (mean) standardised reading scores than children and young people who didn't enjoy reading (n = 2,593; M = 102.65). This difference was statistically significant.

We also found similar relationships with daily reading:

- children and young people who read daily (n = 789; M = 109.49) had higher average (mean) standardised reading scores than children and young people who didn't read daily (n = 3,026; M = 103.35). This difference was statistically significant.

So much work is already being done across all corners of society from authors, educators, influencers and families, to schools, libraries, charities, publishers, businesses and government, but we recognise that we need to work together to make reading for pleasure a national priority.

We all know the benefits of reading, but fewer of us are doing it

Reading expands minds, builds confidence and fuels creativity. Yet with more distractions and less time, reading for pleasure is in decline across many groups. The National Year of Reading 2026 is here to change that, by reconnecting reading with everyday culture. It's not about guilt or obligation; it's about helping people see that stories, ideas and imagination belong everywhere.

How to get involved:

Simple, encourage your child to read for just 20 minutes per day!

Visit <https://goallin.org.uk> for more information, details on how to get involved, and to register for updates.

School PLC and Book Clubs:

At Dormston we are lucky to have a well-stocked library and a fantastic librarian in Mrs Ellmore. Please contact her if you would like more information or help encouraging your child to read. Furthermore, we hold a number of Book Clubs your child may like to join.

Reading Newsletter:

Each half-term we send out a Dormston Reading Newsletter with new books, recommended titles, staff-picks, and updates from our PLC.



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Assemblies:

Week commencing 11th May pupils in Years 7 to 10 will receive an assembly launching the Year of Reading 2026 and hopefully encouraging them to read more!

Encouraging Reading at Home:

At Dormston we believe that reading is the single most important factor that will contribute to a child's success in school and life, as such we encourage our pupils to read for pleasure for at least 20 minutes per day. I have attached other strategies to help encourage your child's reading at home, to this letter.

*"This is the biggest reading initiative the country has ever seen – and it's just the beginning.
Our ambition is to transform reading for generations"*

*David Hayman - Director
National Year of Reading*

We hope you will join the school in supporting this fantastic and worthwhile campaign and encouraging all our children to read more!

Yours sincerely



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