October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well.

In addition to the Reading and Literacy information available on our website, I wanted to take the opportunity to provide further information about our reading provision and explain how parents and carers can support their child's reading journey at home.

**Reading at Northgate and The Bee Hive**

At Northgate and The Bee Hive, we believe that reading is fundamental to learning, communication and future independence. We are committed to ensuring that every pupil develops the skills, confidence and motivation required to become a successful reader. As a specialist setting, we recognise that pupils have a wide range of strengths and needs. Our reading provision is therefore carefully designed to support pupils at every stage of their reading development, from early phonics through to fluent, independent and academic reading.

Reading is not confined to English lessons. Pupils are encouraged to apply their reading skills across the curriculum, developing subject-specific vocabulary, language comprehension and knowledge through a broad range of texts. We also place a strong emphasis on reading for pleasure, helping pupils to develop positive reading habits that will support them throughout their lives.

**Assessment of Reading**

All pupils are assessed regularly and placed on an appropriate reading and literacy pathway.

We use GL Assessment to assess reading, comprehension, spelling and wider literacy skills. Assessment information, alongside teacher judgement and ongoing progress monitoring, allows us to identify the most appropriate intervention and next steps for each pupil.

Reading and spelling ages are reported to parents and carers twice yearly through our Progress Tracker and school reporting systems. Whilst reading ages provide useful information, they are considered alongside a wider range of assessment information to provide a comprehensive picture of reading development.

Pupils are reassessed approximately every four to six weeks, or sooner if staff feel that a review of provision is required.

**Reading Pathways and Interventions**

Queens Park Parade, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, NN2 6LR Telephone: 01604 714098
Headteacher: Mrs F Shears
Email: northgateemail@northgateacademy.org.uk Website: www.northgateacademy.org.uk
Company Number: 07734360 Limited Company, Registered in England & Wales

We offer a range of evidence-informed reading interventions that support pupils from early reading through to advanced comprehension and academic reading.

**Early Reading and Phonics**

For pupils requiring direct instruction in phonics and early reading skills, we use:

- Read Write Inc.
- Read Write Inc. Fresh Start
- Lexplore
- Oxford Reading Buddy

These interventions support pupils in developing secure decoding skills, word recognition, vocabulary and reading confidence.

**Reading Fluency and Comprehension**

For pupils who can decode text accurately but require support with understanding what they read, we provide:

**Reciprocal Reading**

Through Reciprocal Reading, pupils develop key comprehension skills including:

- Predicting
- Questioning
- Clarifying
- Summarising

These skills help pupils develop deeper understanding of both fiction and non-fiction texts.

**Academic Reading**

For pupils who are fluent readers, Academic Reading provides opportunities to engage with increasingly challenging texts and develop higher-order literacy skills. Pupils are encouraged to analyse, evaluate and interpret texts whilst broadening their vocabulary and background knowledge.

**Reading for Pleasure**

Reading for Pleasure remains a key element of our provision. Pupils are encouraged to access a wide range of texts through our school libraries and the SORA digital library platform. We believe that developing enjoyment and engagement with reading is essential for long-term success.

**Reading Lessons**

All pupils participate in dedicated reading lessons three mornings each week.
Pupils are taught in carefully selected groups according to their current reading assessments and identified needs. Groups may be reviewed and adjusted following ongoing assessments to ensure that provision remains closely matched to pupil progress.

In addition to these dedicated reading lessons, pupils access reading opportunities throughout the curriculum and within English lessons.

**Developing a Reading Culture**

At Northgate and The Bee Hive, we aim to create a culture where reading is valued, celebrated and enjoyed by all.

Our curriculum is language-rich and provides regular opportunities for pupils to engage with high-quality texts. Through reading whole texts, discussing vocabulary and exploring literature together, pupils build knowledge, improve communication skills and develop their understanding of the world around them.

We want every pupil to see themselves as a reader, regardless of their starting point.

**Reading Resources for Home and School**

All pupils accessing reading interventions will have a Reading Record.

Teachers will record when they hear pupils read in school, and parents and carers are encouraged to use the same record to record reading completed at home.

Reading Records should travel between home and school daily.

For pupils accessing Academic Reading, there is no expectation to complete a Reading Record; however, we strongly encourage regular independent reading and discussion about books.

**Books for Home**

The resource sent home will depend on the intervention your child is accessing.

**Read Write Inc. and Read Write Inc. Fresh Start**

Pupils will bring home a reading book and/or module booklet linked directly to their learning in school.

Parents and carers should record reading activity within the Reading Record.

**Lexplore**

Pupils will bring home personalised materials linked directly to their individual reading profile. Families are encouraged to practise the sounds and activities provided.

**Oxford Reading Buddy**

Pupils can access levelled Oxford Reading Scheme books online using their individual login details.

Pupils should complete the accompanying quiz following each book and parents/carers should record reading activity within the Reading Record.

**Reciprocal Reading and Reading for Pleasure**

Pupils should borrow fiction and non-fiction texts from the school library or through the SORA online reading platform.

Parents and carers should record reading completed at home within the Reading Record.

**The Northgate Library**

We have dedicated library, which provides pupils with access to a wide range of age-appropriate and interest-based texts.

We use Capita Reading Cloud to manage library loans and monitor reading engagement. All pupils have a library card and can borrow books during registration periods, reading sessions, breaktimes and lunchtimes.

Please encourage your child to return books regularly so that borrowing records remain accurate and books can be renewed where necessary.

**Online Reading Platforms**

Every pupil has access to:

- Oxford Reading Buddy
- SORA Reading App

These accounts can be accessed both at home and at school. Login details will be provided separately.

These platforms allow pupils to continue developing reading skills beyond the classroom and provide greater choice and accessibility for families.

**Parent and Carer Support**

Parents and carers play a vital role in reading development.

Research consistently shows that regular reading at home can have a significant impact on reading progress, confidence and enjoyment.

You can support your child by:

- Listening to them read regularly.
- Reading aloud to them, regardless of age.
- Discussing books, articles and topics of interest.
- Encouraging use of school reading platforms.
- Celebrating reading achievements.

For pupils accessing phonics programmes, we recommend that parents and carers familiarise themselves with key phonics terminology such as:

- Pure sounds
- Digraphs
- Trigraphs

Read Write Inc. parent guidance and demonstration videos can be found through the Oxford Owl website.
Further information about our reading programmes is available through:

- Read Write Inc.

- Lexplore
- Oxford Reading Buddy
- National Literacy Trust (Reciprocal Reading)
- SORA Reading App

**Finally**

Every child is different, and aspects of our provision may be adapted to meet individual needs. However, we hope this guide provides a clear overview of how reading is taught and supported across Northgate and The Bee Hive.

If you would like any further information regarding your child's reading pathway or have any questions about our reading provision, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Nembhard
Deputy Headteacher