



Springwell Park

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share some important findings from a recent survey conducted by the National Literacy Trust that highlights a concerning decline in children's enjoyment of reading. According to the survey, which involved over 76,000 young people aged 5 to 18, only 34.6% of eight- to 18-year-olds reported enjoying reading in their free time. **This marks the lowest level in almost two decades and represents an 8.8 percentage point drop from the previous year.** The survey also found that fewer children are reading daily, with only 20.5% reporting that they read for pleasure on a regular basis, compared to 28% last year.

Reading for pleasure has been shown to have numerous benefits, including expanding vocabulary, improving mental well-being, and enhancing empathy. Children who read regularly tend to perform better academically and develop stronger cognitive and social skills. We also know that reading for pleasure can provide an escape, help children relax, and broaden their horizons by introducing them to new ideas and cultures.

Despite these well-documented benefits, the National Literacy Trust survey reveals that children's engagement with reading has been steadily declining. **The gender gap is also widening, with more girls reporting an enjoyment of reading compared to boys.**

As a school, we are committed to doing everything we can to ignite a passion for reading in our students. However, this is a challenge that requires collaboration between school and **home. I urge you to encourage your child to read regularly, whether it's a book, magazine, or even an engaging article online.** It's essential that we all work together to create an environment where reading is seen as an enjoyable and valuable activity.

Here are some ways you can support your child's reading at home:

- **Read together:** Set aside time each day to read with your child, regardless of their age.
- **Talk about books:** Share your favourite books with your child and ask them about what they're reading.
- **Create a reading-friendly environment:** Make books easily accessible in the home and encourage reading in a variety of forms.
- **Join your local library:** A trip to the library can be a fun way to explore new books and foster a love of reading.

As Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Children's Laureate, said, "The good news is that the solution is in our hands." Together, we can help reverse this worrying trend and ensure that every child has the opportunity to experience the joy and benefits of reading.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us foster a love of reading at Springwell Park Primary.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like further suggestions on how to encourage reading at home.

Kind regards,

Tom Hanlon

Assistant Head.