

19th April 2023



Dear Parent / Carer,

I write to you today as the Literacy and Phonics lead at Oasis Academy Shirley Park to share some important information regarding reading and how you can support your child at home.

Reading has been defined by the Department for Education as the 'master skill' needed for success across all subjects.

However, according to the National Literacy Trust, **1 in 4 children leave primary school unable to read at an age-appropriate level**. Last year, research by the Department for Education found that 27% of primary school children arrive at secondary school having not met the expected standard of reading for their age. Low reading levels are a national crisis that urgently need addressing.

What are we doing at Oasis Academy Shirley Park?

Since January, we have conducted reading tests for all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 which have provided us with the reading ages of each child.

Twice a week, tutor time is used for reading. This means 40 minutes a week are dedicated to silent reading in school.

In order to improve reading levels across the school, your child will have been placed into one of two groups:

- **Group 1** students are those who have a reading age below that expected of their current age. These students are required to use a platform called Reading Plus (login.readingplus.com/d/oasis). Reading Plus is currently being used in 7,800 schools and provides lessons for that teach, boost and track key reading skills. Each lesson is between 5 to 10 mins long so each student should be completing at least 4 lessons a week in school.
- **Group 2** students are those who are reading at or above the reading age that is expected of their current age. These students are expected to access an electronic library called on Wheelers. This app is automatically downloaded on every single child's iPad already.



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Registered Office: 75 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HS

Principal - Ms J Botley,
Lower and Middle School

Nursery to Year 3
Lower School, 47-49 Stroud Green Way,
Croydon, CR0 7BE

Year 4 to Year 6
Middle School and The Orchard, Long Lane,
Croydon, CR0 7AR

Tel: 020 8656 0222

E-mail: primaryadmin@oasisshirleypark.org

Principal - Mr S Chaudhri Secondary
and Sixth Form

Upper School and Sixth Form:
Shirley Road, Croydon, CR0 7AL

Tel: 020 8656 0222

E-mail: admin@oasisshirleypark.org

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What can you do at home?

- 1) Ask your child if they are expected to be using Reading Plus or Wheelers. They will have been told this information by their form tutor on a number of occasions.
- 2) Please ensure your child completes at least **20 minutes** a day on the appropriate reading platform

Reading Plus should be accessed at login.readingplus.com/d/oasis

Wheelers should be accessed via the app on student iPads.

Get in touch if you would like to know more

If you would like to know your child's specific reading age and discuss what your child should be doing to improve then please do not hesitate to get in contact via email at brickley.stuhr-dent@oasisshirleypark.org

Yours faithfully

B Stuhr-Dent

Miss Stuhr-Dent
Whole School Literacy and Phonics Lead



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