

Dear Parents,

Many Year 7 students join Island School with excellent reading habits that have been established at home and at primary school; this puts them in a very strong position to make a great start to the Year 7 curriculum. As I am sure you know, reading has a positive impact on students' progress in all areas of the curriculum and on their overall well-being.

It is our experience that with the move from primary to secondary school and the change in routine this brings, some of these habits can be forgotten in Year 7. I am sure you share our aim to capitalize on the strong reading habits students bring with them or to reinvigorate those who have become reluctant readers.

Reading will be at the heart of the Year 7 English curriculum. Students will experience a range of fiction and non-fiction texts that will engage them and stimulate their thinking. Later in the school year your child's English teacher will be in touch to let you know the details of a book your child will need to purchase for term 2. If students read it too far in advance we find they forget it by the time they study it in lessons so we do not recommend reading the term 2 book until the Christmas holiday.

However, a long summer holiday lies ahead and it would be beneficial for students to spend some time reading. Below is a list of suggested books that we hope students will enjoy reading over the holiday. These are not compulsory reading, simply suggested good reads. I encourage you to continue to read with and to your child. The experience of sharing books with your child is the best way to support their reading.

Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

The Lies We Tell Ourselves by Robin Talley

The Colour of the Sun by David Almond

Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin

Flamingo Boy by Michael Morpurgo

Happy Reading!

Gary Corlett

Head of English
