

9 March 2026

Dear Family,

Theme Reader Homework

I am writing to update you on our continued work to strengthen reading across Key Stage 3 (KS3) through Theme Reader (Microsoft Reading Progress). This is not a new system, but from now until the end of the academic year we are placing a renewed focus on ensuring students complete their reading tasks consistently and confidently as part of each Literacy for Life (L4L) theme.

What is Theme Reader?

Theme Reader is a built in Microsoft Teams tool that allows students to record themselves reading a short extract linked directly to the L4L theme they are studying. The reading is released within each theme so that the vocabulary and context support the learning ahead. The system securely analyses accuracy, fluency, pace and expression, giving teachers high quality information to support all learners, please note there is no requirement to use the camera. It also provides Reading Coach, which allows students to practise any words they found difficult. Find out more here - [Introducing Reading Progress in Microsoft Teams - YouTube](#).

Why the renewed focus?

Theme Reader is part of our curriculum, and we want to make sure that every student benefits from it. This renewed focus aims to:

- Build reading fluency and confidence before each theme really gets underway
- Strengthen background knowledge and vocabulary
- Support students who may struggle with reading aloud
- Ensure consistent, high quality practice across all KS3 classes

How Theme Reader will run:

Students will complete a reading clip (up to a maximum of 10 minutes) within each theme at home as part of homework in KS3.

Teachers use the information to guide vocabulary work, plan lessons, and support students who need extra practice.

All recordings are secure and stored safely within Microsoft 365, in line with Trust safeguarding expectations.

Rewards

Students will receive 15 epraise points for every task completed by the deadline set.

How you can help at home?

- Encourage your child to complete their Theme Reader task promptly when it appears on Teams
- Remind them to read clearly and steadily; confidence is more important than speed
- Reassure them that nobody expects perfection; this routine is about progress over time

Thank you for your continued support in helping us strengthen reading across KS3. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch.

Kind regards,

J Davies

Mr J Davies
Teacher of L4L