



# Top tips for teachers

Helping your pupils develop a love of reading

## Reading for enjoyment

The Read On. Get On. campaign aims to get all children reading well by the age of 11. Helping children develop a love of reading is key to achieving this, as reading enjoyment gives children the building blocks they need to succeed at school, in work and in life.

Children who enjoy reading, and who carry this love of reading with them throughout primary and secondary school, have a reading age 3.3 years ahead of their peers who don't enjoy reading by the age of 14<sup>1</sup>.

## Top tips to help your pupils develop a love of reading

There are lots of ways that you can help your pupils develop a love of reading. Here are some top tips to get you started!

### Be a reading role model

Children look to their teachers, parents and idols for inspiration in all areas of their lives. Leading by example, you can help your pupils develop positive attitudes to reading.

- Find time and opportunities to read aloud to your pupils as often as possible.
- Try to broaden your knowledge of children's books and popular culture and give pupils ideas and advice on what they might like to read.
- Create a display in your classroom dedicated to the books your pupils are reading. This can include book reviews, drawings, a book of the week, and recommendations.
- Invite people from the local community, such as parents, governors and authors, to explain to your pupils how reading helps them in their everyday lives. This will show children that reading has a purpose.

### Create a calendar of reading events for your school

Create a calendar of reading events for your school to ensure that pupils get lots of opportunities throughout the year to develop their interest in reading. Find out about any national reading campaigns and plan activities around them. Here's some to get you started:

- [National Storytelling Week](#) (27 January - 3 February 2018)
- [World Book Day](#) (1 March 2018)
- [International Children's Book Day](#) (2 April 2018)
- [National Poetry Day](#) (28 September 2018)
- [Libraries Week](#) (8-14 October 2018)

Don't forget to visit the campaign websites for free teaching resources and more.

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## Plan a visit to your local library

For some children, a school visit will be the first time they go to a library. Libraries are fantastic places to introduce children to a vast range of reading materials on interesting topics, from picture books and superhero comics, to cookbooks and fact files on dinosaurs.

Children will be able to join the library for free and start borrowing books to enjoy at home. Many libraries also run storytelling sessions, book talks and reading groups. A librarian might even come to your school to speak at an assembly. [Find your local library](#).

## Use book lists for inspiration

Book lists are a wonderful way to help your pupils discover exciting new titles and news genres. The [Duchess's Bookshelves Book List](#) is a great place to start. Children from primary schools across the UK recommended their top 70 books to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall. The book list has something for every child!

## Arrange a visit from an author or storyteller

Bringing a writer, poet, illustrator or storyteller into your school is a great way to inspire children and bring reading to life. The BookTrust has some great [advice](#) for planning your author visit and the National Literacy Trust has a [directory of storytellers](#) you can contact.

## Take part in reading challenges and competitions

Reading challenges and competitions are a fun way for children to improve their reading.

- The [Summer Reading Challenge](#) takes place every year during the summer holidays. Children read six library books of their choice to complete the challenge and collect exclusive rewards along the way. The campaign website helps children keep track of their reading all year round with book recommendations, games and competitions.
- Based on the popular *Magic Animal Friends* and *Frankie's Magic Football* series, the [Reading Adventure Challenge](#) enables pupils to record their reading journey in special log books, with every 10 minutes they read taking them a step closer to the finish – 10 hours of reading in total. Available resources include cross-curricular literacy activities, book lists, a themed reading log, a certificate and a poster.
- [Chatterbooks](#) groups take place in schools and libraries to get children reading and discussing books. Teachers, teaching assistants, librarians and volunteers can join the Chatterbooks network to get free teaching resources, activity packs and access to competitions.

Visit the [National Literacy Trust](#) and [BookTrust](#) websites for the latest reading competitions.

**For more information on the Read On. Get On. campaign, visit: [www.readongeton.org.uk](http://www.readongeton.org.uk)**

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<sup>i</sup> National Literacy Trust (2017) *Celebrating Reading for Enjoyment: Findings from our Annual Literacy Survey 2016 report*