

Dear Parents/Carers,

Each year we carry out a reading assessment with all students. This helps us understand each child's reading level and how we can support their progress. Your child's reading score will be sent home in their first progress report of each academic year.

We work hard to make sure the results are accurate. However, if you feel your child's score may not be correct and you would like them to retake the test, please contact vct@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk.

Please remember that this score does **not** show your child's intelligence. It simply shows their current reading level, which can improve with practice. At the end of this letter you will find some advice on how to support your child's reading at home.

We do not share reading age information directly with our students, but you may choose to talk to them about it if you wish.

We also have three helpful online resources to support reading. Students can use **Bedrock** and **Sparx Reader** to build vocabulary and comprehension. They can also access **TheDay**, an online newspaper with articles matched to their reading level.

Reading improves with time, practice, and encouragement. Your support at home will help your child become more confident and enjoy reading.

If you have any questions or need further support, please contact me.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Thorley
Reading Co-ordinator

Reading Age Guidance for Parents

Reading Age: 6–9 Years

What this means:

Your child may find basic reading difficult. They may struggle with simple words or understanding what they read.

How to help:

- **Daily Reading:** Read with your child for at least 20 minutes.
- **Ask Questions:** Talk about the story to help their understanding.
- **Phonics Practice:** Go over sounds and common words.
- **Play Word Games:** Use simple spelling or rhyming games.
- **Library Visits:** Let them choose books they enjoy, even picture books.
- **Key Words:** Practise important subject words using their knowledge organisers.

Reading Age: 9–11 Years

What this means:

Your child's reading is improving, but they may still need support to reach their expected level.

How to help:

- **Choose the Right Books:** Pick books they enjoy that offer a small challenge.
- **Read Together:** Encourage both shared and independent reading.
- **Build Vocabulary:** Teach them new words in everyday conversations.
- **Use Different Texts:** Try non-fiction, comics, or magazines.
- **Audiobooks:** Listen to audiobooks alongside the text.

Reading Age: 12–14 Years

What this means:

Your child reads at or close to their expected level, but can still develop deeper understanding.

How to help:

- **Discuss the Text:** Talk about characters, themes, and ideas.
- **Current Events:** Read and discuss news articles or blogs.
- **New Genres:** Encourage them to try different types of books.
- **Set Goals:** Help them set reading targets.
- **Join Discussions:** A book club can support deeper thinking.

Reading Age: 15+ Years**What this means:**

Your child reads at a high level and understands complex texts.

How to help:

- **Challenge Them:** Encourage classic books, scientific articles, or more advanced texts.
- **Discuss Ideas:** Talk about themes and issues from what they read.
- **Creative Writing:** Encourage them to write stories or essays.
- **Research Projects:** Suggest reading academic articles or longer texts.
- **Independent Choice:** Allow them to choose a mix of fiction and non-fiction.