

A Parent's Guide to Readership



Reading

Not only does reading aid the development of great writing habits, but it also builds vocabulary, enables students to understand or empathise with others and helps them to form critical discussions about society.

Reading is more than just enjoying a good story; it is a tool to thrive and succeed in the modern world.

Let's get talking about reading!

Talking about reading can sometimes be just as important as the reading itself – it helps students to be thoughtful and reflective whilst forming personal opinions in a safe and supportive environment.



The questions below are designed to open these conversations:

- What is it about?
- What happens?
- Are you enjoying it? Why?
- What's the best bit so far? Why?
- Who do you think it is aimed at? What makes you think that?
- Is it fiction or non-fiction? How do you know?
- What's interesting about it?
- What is the style and tone of the piece? How has the writer created this; do you think?
- Which words work well? Why?
- Why do you think the writer chose to write it?
- What do you think they wanted to achieve in the bit you are reading now?
- How has the writer put it together? Why this way, do you think?
- Does it remind you of anything similar you have read before? Why? In what way?
- What issues, themes or ideas does the text explore?
- Are the issues raised important to you? Why?
- How does it make you feel? Why? How has the writer achieved this?
- Could you write like this yourself, do you think? How?
- Who would you recommend it to?

Ideas for engaging a reluctant reader...

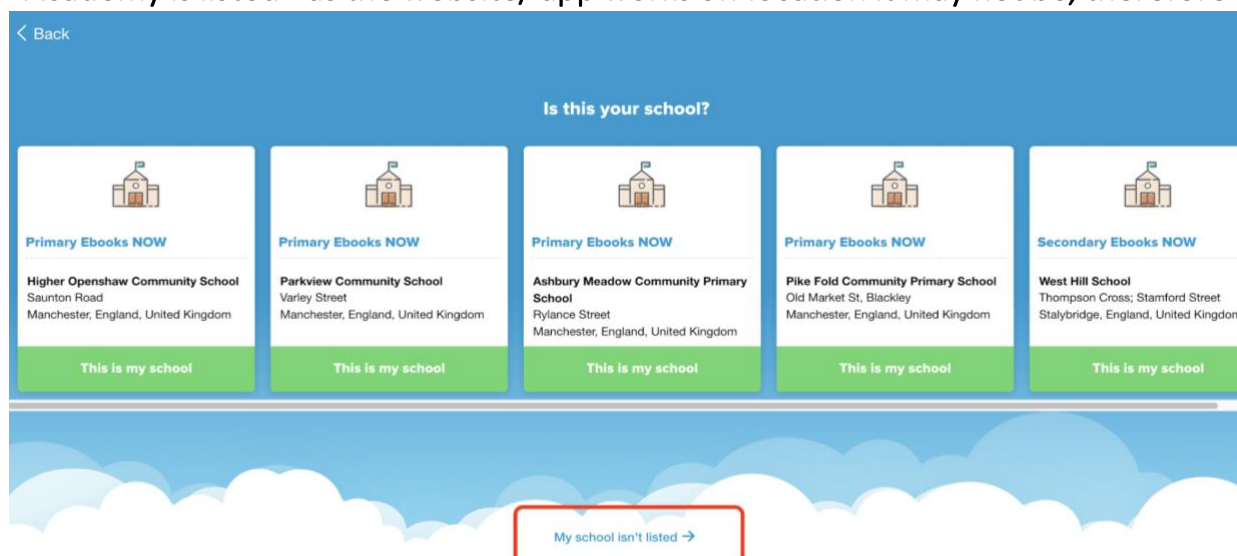


- **Create a reading routine.** Set aside between 10-30 minutes a day to read with your child. Keep reading to and with your child even once they are confident, fluent readers. It can be a wonderful way to connect with them by discussing the book together and making predictions about what might happen next. You could even find a cosy reading place to share together!

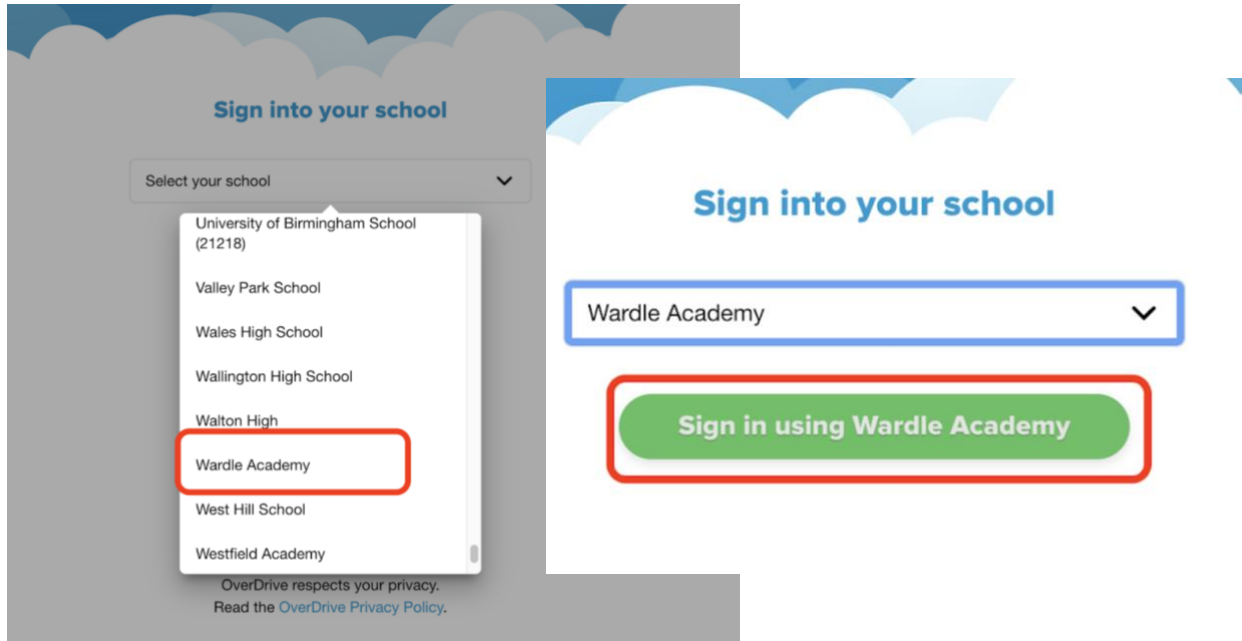
- **Visit the library.** Encourage your child to read a wide variety of books to keep them engaged. A visit to the library is a fantastic way for your child access a large choice of books at no extra cost! Much has been written about the powerful impact of students have a choice in what they read. When children are given the opportunity to choose a book, they are more likely read it!
- **Choose visually appealing books.** Appealing front covers, and larger print can often be key to engaging reluctant readers. Artwork or illustrations that are realistic, interesting or diverse can also draw in a reader.
- **Hook them into a series of books.** Reading the first book of a series with your child will often lead to them independently wanting to read more and learn more about these characters and the plot of these books. They can make great gifts for birthdays and Christmas!
- **Watch the film.** Often as an adult this can spoil the surprise of a book but for a reluctant reader it can help to engage a child in the story and make a book more accessible. Seeing a book come to life can be really motivating for a child.
- **Read using technology.** Gadgets such as tablets and e-readers can help to capture children's interest in books. Technology is changing the way we all learn and given that most children see using a tablet as a fun activity, it is likely to increase their enjoyment and confidence – therefore have a positive impact on their reading.
- **Listen to audiobooks.** Mix up their reading by allowing your child to listen to audiobooks for part of the story. It can be really engaging to listen and follow along with a book.
- **Read with/to younger siblings or with/to family members.** This can really empower a reluctant reader and help to build their confidence in their reading capabilities.
- **Pair reading with activities.** Ask your child to read the instructions to a new game and teach the family or read a recipe and cook together... they won't even know they're learning!
- **Let them read anything.** Books are a fantastic form of escapism but reading magazines, game guides, football league tables are all a step in the right direction and may help a reluctant reader to see that they do have the ability to read.

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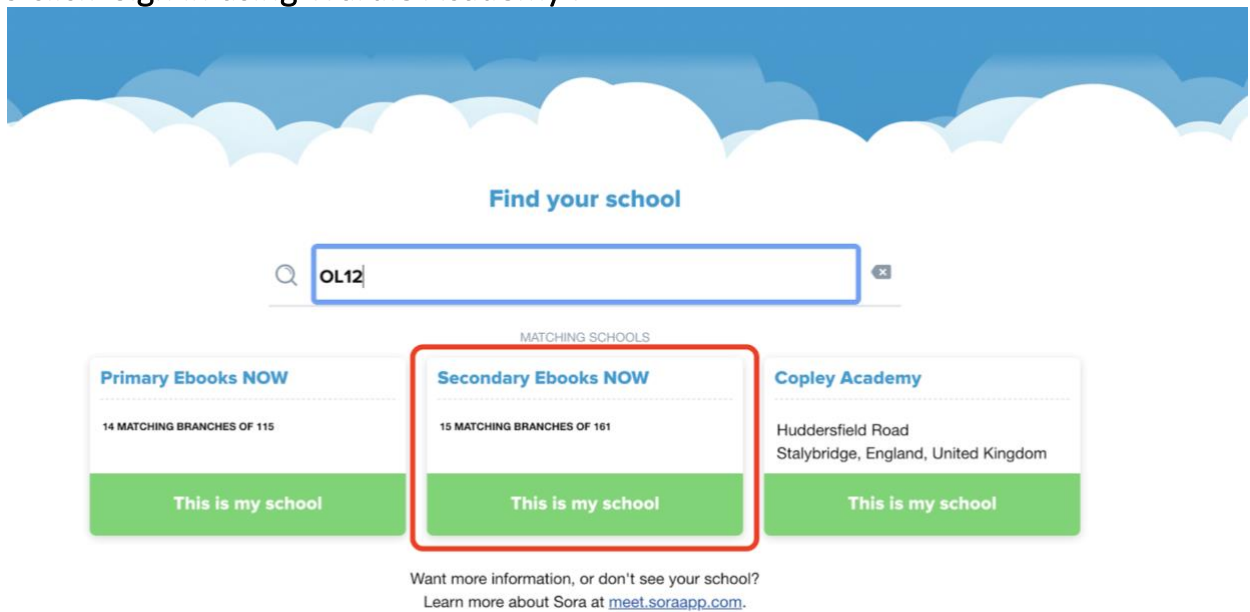
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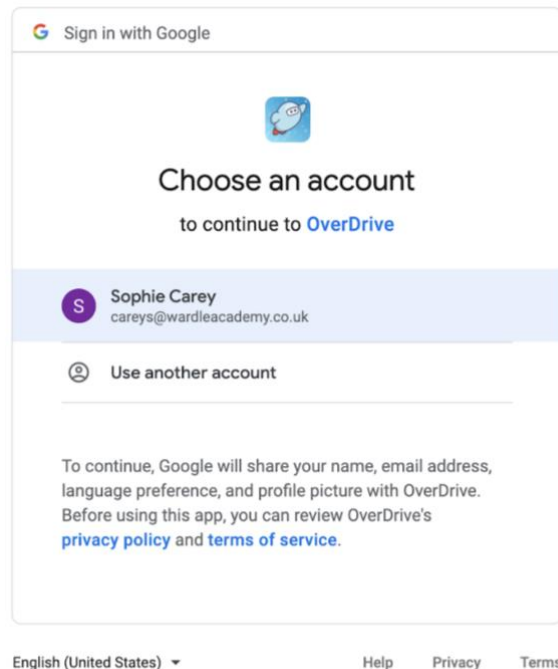
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