

# **BREDA ACADEMY**

## **LITERACY SUPPORT**



### **P7/ YEAR 8 TRANSITION**

### **SUMMER LITERACY**

### **ACTIVITIES**



## GETTING 'LITERACY' READY FOR YEAR 8

Breda Academy's motto is:

**'LEARNERS TODAY, LEADERS TOMORROW'**

We want all our pupils to grow, thrive, and reach their full potential in every aspect of school life. A key element of this, is having good literacy skills.

We want to ensure that your literacy skills are the best they can be. Not only are these skills used every day in subjects like English, but they are used across all subject areas in Breda Academy... Yes, subjects like Science, Technology, and even P.E. need you to have good literacy skills!

There are numerous things you can do at home to help prepare, practice, and improve your literacy skills, and the summer holidays are the perfect time to get started.

Below is a list of literacy focused tasks we would like you to complete, in preparation for starting Year 8 in September:

No.	TASK	CHECK ✓
1.	Sign up to the Breda Academy Literacy Google Classroom	
2.	Sign up and download TextHelp's Read&Write software	
3.	Practice using Immersive Reader	
4.	Download and sign up for the LibrariesNI app	
5.	Practice reading fluency	
6.	Read a book or listen to an audiobook	
7.	Write a book review and return it to your new English teacher in September	
8.	Practice handwriting using a pen	
9.	Learn and revise the High Frequency Words	
10.	Practice Touch Typing	

## SUMMER LITERACY TASKS

### 1. SIGN UP TO THE BRED ACADEMY LITERACY GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Our Literacy Google Classroom has lots of useful hints, tips, guides, and tasks etc. to help both pupils and parents support, develop, and improve Literacy skills. Resources include:

- Support for reading and writing;
- Improving handwriting;
- How to download and use assistive software;
- Vocabulary and spelling;
- ICT Literacy information and skills;
- Useful website links that support literacy development.

Pupils will need their C2K email address (e.g. [another123@c2ken.net](mailto:another123@c2ken.net)) and password to sign in to Google Classroom.

**If pupils have a @c2k*ni*.net address, they will need to make a slight change when logging in.**

**The email address should read @c2k*en*.net instead.**

Google Classroom can be accessed by following these simple instructions:

1. Go to <https://edu.google.com/workspace-for-education/classroom/>
2. Click **Sign into Classroom**.
3. Enter the email address for your Classroom (C2K) account and click **Next**.
4. Enter your password and click **Next**.
5. If there is a welcome message, review it and click **Accept**.
6. If you're using a Google Workspace for Education account, click **I'm A Student** or **I'm A Teacher**.  
**Tip:** Users with personal Google Accounts won't see this option.
7. Click **Get Started**.

**Join the Breda Academy Literacy Google Classroom page by entering the class code:**

**p5wweka**

## 2. SIGN UP/ DOWNLOAD TEXTHELP'S READ&WRITE SOFTWARE FOR FREE

Read&Write is a toolbar available, through C2K, for all pupils to download for FREE at home, and to also use on school computers. The toolbar has several features to guide pupils' work, such as:

- dictionaries and picture dictionaries;
- text to speech generators;
- spelling, punctuation and grammar checkers;
- research highlighters;
- and a range of other useful features that can be used to form a personalised toolbar that suits the user's learning needs.

This software makes extended pieces of writing more accurate and makes researching more efficient; this is particularly valuable for pupils studying for GCSE and A Level examinations.

You can download the software by using the link:

<https://www.texthelp.com/en-gb/resources/campaigns/supporting-students-in-northern-ireland>

**A guide to downloading Read&Write can be found on the Breda Academy Website & Literacy Google Classroom page.**

## 3. PRACTICE USING IMMERSIVE READER

Immersive Reader can be used to support reading and writing by customising how Microsoft Word documents appear while you read and edit. This will come in very useful when pupils are using ICT to complete work at home and in school.

Immersive Reader provides options for a comfortable and easy to process experience by allowing you to:

- Listen to the text read aloud;
- Adjust how the text appears by modifying spacing, colour, line focus etc.

**A guide to accessing and using Immersive Reader can be found on the Breda Academy Website & Literacy Google Classroom page.**

#### 4. DOWNLOAD AND SIGN UP TO THE LIBRARIESNI APP ON YOUR DEVICE

The Libraries NI App can be downloaded for FREE to your mobile phone or tablet, and it puts the library directly into your pocket. The app carries your membership barcode for easy access to scan and borrow books in person at the library, or you can use it to:

- Search Libraries NI's extensive catalogue of books and eBooks;
- Make requests for books and get them delivered to your library (there is a 50p charge);
- Renew your books with one touch;
- Scan the barcode of any book you see to check if they have it in stock;
- Make changes to requests wherever you are; control your account;
- Tap and download eBooks, audiobooks and eMagazines;

**More information regarding the LibrariesNI app can be found on their website, and the app is available via your app store:**

<https://www.librariesni.org.uk/libraries-ni-app/>



#### 5. PRACTICE READING FLUENCY

Typically, the quicker a child can read, the more accurate and fluent they are. This helps improve comprehension, the ability to infer meaning, and it determines how quickly information is accessed.

Parents can help their child improve their reading speed by practicing reading within a set time frame, and then working to improve the WPM (words per minute) spoken aloud by the child.

##### **EXAMPLE:**

Using the excerpt – ***A Trip to the Zoo*** – you should be able to calculate your fluency score. Use a timer to let your child read the text for exactly 60 seconds, then count how many words have been read.

Practice this every day until they reach their age-appropriate target (or above), with understanding, per minute. Track their progress so that you can monitor improvements.

### **Trip to the Zoo**

During the weekend, my Dad offered to take me to the zoo so that I could observe	<b>17</b>
some of my favourite animals. I really do admire and adore elephants so I immediately	<b>32</b>
said, “yes!” and ran off to locate my camera. Camera safely packed, I then returned to	<b>48</b>
my room for some pocket money. If I saw a suitable book about elephants, then I would	<b>65</b>
purchase it to read later. My sister decided to stay at home, maybe I would buy her an	<b>83</b>
appropriate book too. I would probably have just enough money left to grab an ice-cream	<b>99</b>
or a bar of chocolate. I was so excited that I nearly tripped over.	<b>113</b>
“Come on!” shouted Dad. “Let’s get a move on!” he grumbled as I tried to get my shoes	<b>131</b>
on. “It will be closing time if we don’t get going soon!”	<b>143</b>
Eventually, we jumped into the car and made the journey to the zoo. When we arrived,	<b>159</b>
noticed a big sign ahead of us... “Zoo closed due to escaped elephant.” Dad turned	<b>174</b>
around and sighed.	<b>177</b>

### **WPM PROGRESS TRACKER**

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	WEEK 7	WEEK 8
MON								
TUES								
WED								
THUR								
FRI								
AVERAGE SCORE								

YEAR GROUP	WPM TARGET
Transition from P7 – Yr8	90 WPM
End of Key Stage 3 (Yr10)	90 – 120 WPM
End of Key Stage 4 (Yr12)	120-190 WPM
Average adult reading speed	250 WPM



## 6. READ A BOOK OR LISTEN TO AN AUDIOBOOK

Relaxation is an essential part of the summer holidays, and it ensures that pupils can start school in September feeling refreshed and ready to learn. Reading for pleasure and enjoyment is a great way to add to the relaxation experience, whilst also helping to develop literacy skills at the same time!

We would like pupils to read at least one book during the summer holidays. There are lots of books and audiobooks that they can choose from, and hundreds of genres to pique their interest. Fiction, non-fiction, autobiographies, Manga, romance, action, Young Adult, thriller, sci-fi... the list is endless!

However, if you're struggling to choose, check out websites such as:

[www.puffin.co.uk](http://www.puffin.co.uk) or <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>

These websites offer advice on what books children of different ages might enjoy, and don't forget that you can always join and visit your local library or use the LibrariesNI app to find the perfect book for you!

## 7. WRITE A BOOK REVIEW AND GIVE IT TO YOUR NEW ENGLISH TEACHER

Your new English teacher can't wait to hear all about your reading experiences from your summer holidays. They love to know what type of books interest you and learn about what reading material you enjoy most.

Write a book review for your English teacher all about the book (or lots of books!!) you chose to read during the summer. When you go to your first English class in September, give your review to your English teacher so that they can read all about your summer reading choices. There might even be a prize for the best review!

**You can find lots of examples of book review templates on the Breda Academy Website & Literacy Google Classroom page.**

Use these templates to help guide you as you write your review for your English teacher.

## 8. PRACTICE HANDWRITING USING A PEN

Handwriting is an essential skill that everyone needs, and not just in school. Having handwriting that is clear, legible, and easy to read is extremely important and can only be achieved through lots of practice.

In most subjects in Breda Academy, pupils will be expected to complete written work using a pen. Some pupils find this a little strange at first, because pencils are used for writing in lots of primary schools.



There are lots of different types of pens you can use, but we would ask that pupils use **ballpoint/rollerball** pens. We would also highly recommend that pupils use **erasable pens**; these are particularly useful for correcting mistakes. We would ask that pupils don't use gel pens, felt pens or fountain pens in school.

Something you might also want to consider is using a **handgrip**, especially if you find writing difficult or have issues with hand movements. There are even some ballpoint/ rollerball pens that have an inbuilt handgrip for those who find handwriting difficult or uncomfortable.



Before starting school in September, we would like you to practice handwriting using a pen, so that it's not a strange experience when asked to do so in lessons.

**There are lots of handwriting tasks, (along with some useful hints and tips), available on the Breda Academy Website & Literacy Google Classroom page.**

## 9. LEARN AND REVISE HIGH FREQUENCY WORDS

High frequency words are one of the main types of sight words. They are words which occur most frequently in written material, for example, "and", "the", "as" and "it" etc. They are often words that have little meaning on their own, but they do contribute significantly to the entire meaning of a sentence.

It is extremely important that you know how to recognise, read, and spell as many high frequency words as possible, because you need to be able to recognise and read them in multiple texts, or use and spell them correctly in the written work you do in class.



A list of the First 100 High Frequency and Next 200 High Frequency Words are available on the Breda Academy Website & Google Classroom page.

We recommend that pupils use the **‘LOOK, SAY, COVER, WRITE, CHECK’** technique to learn any spellings:

- **LOOK:** look at the word you are trying to learn.
- **SAY:** say the word as you look at it, using different ways of pronouncing it if that will make it more memorable.
- **COVER:** cover the word so that you can't see it.
- **WRITE:** write the word from memory, saying the word as you do so.
- **CHECK:** Have you got it right?

## 10. PRACTICE TOUCH TYPING

Touch typing is one of the most useful computer literacy skills you can have. It makes working at a computer much more comfortable, your work can be completed with greater accuracy and speed; it also means you will be able to type using more than just two fingers!

You will need to learn how to touch type so that you can use it effectively, not only during your ICT classes here in Breda Academy, but in lots of other subjects that require you to produce work using a computer

There are lots of websites that you can use to help practice touch typing such as:

<https://www.typingclub.com/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/z3c6tfr>

<https://www.ratatype.com/>

