



25<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Reading Ages: A Guide

#### What does it mean?

Reading age is a key indicator of how well a student can understand written material. It is shown in your child's report in a **year:month** format — for example, **12:06** means the student reads at the level expected of a student who is 12 years and 6 months old. This data is derived from SparxReader, a widely used assessment tool across UK primary and secondary schools.

#### Why is it important?

For reference, the national average reading age for Year 6 students is approximately 11 years and 2 months. However, to fully access the language and content of GCSE exam papers, students generally need a reading age of 15 years and 8 months. This gap highlights the importance of developing reading skills throughout secondary school.

Reading strengthens comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking — all essential for success across subjects, including maths and science.

#### My child's reading age is below their chronological age – should I be worried?

Not necessarily – but it is an important sign that they need more support in their reading.

It is important to remember:

- Being below chronological reading age is common, especially during early secondary years.
- Reading age can improve significantly with consistent practice and support.

#### How can I support my child's reading?

How parents and carers can help:

- Monitor SparxReader usage — check progress and celebrate milestones. Every student should be reaching their 600 SRP target, which is 60 minutes of reading per week.
- Encourage daily reading — books, articles, or anything that interests your child.
- Talk about what they read — ask questions and share ideas.
- Set aside quiet time for reading — even 15 minutes a day makes a difference.

#### What if my child's reading age is blank?

This may be because your child was absent when the test was completed. Our librarian and your child's English teacher will work to ensure that testing is completed at the next available opportunity.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at [contactus@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:contactus@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk)

Kind regards,

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