

Dr Jessie Ricketts, Department of Psychology
Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX
www.royalholloway.ac.uk/psychology

Research Study Title: Does reading for pleasure support vocabulary learning?

Parent Information Sheet: Stage 1

Dear Parent,

We are researchers at the Department of Psychology at Royal Holloway and we would like to invite your child to participate in a short study about vocabulary and reading development.

• **What is the study?**

We are trying to understand how to encourage secondary pupils to read more and whether reading more helps them to grow their knowledge of words. The first stage of the project is to ask all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 at The Emmbrook School to do a quick reading activity in class. After that, some of these pupils will be given books to read.

• **Why has my child been chosen to take part?**

All pupils in Year 7, 8, or 9 at The Emmbrook School are being asked to take part in this part of the project.

• **Does my child have to take part?**

If you are happy for your child to take part then you don't need to do anything. The activity will be included in their normal class activities. However, taking part is completely up to you and your child and no one will mind if you don't want to take part. **If you don't want your child to take part, then please return the consent form by 4 March 2020.**

• **What will happen if my child does take part?**

Your child will take part in a short reading activity during normal class time. The activity will be led by their teacher.

• **What are the risks and benefits of taking part?**

We don't anticipate any risks. The information you and your child give will remain confidential and will only be seen by the research team. Neither you, your child, nor the school will be identifiable in any published information or report resulting from the study. Information about individuals will not be shared with the school and taking part (or not doing so) will not influence the grades that your child receives at school.

Participants in similar studies have found it interesting to take part and the findings will help researchers and teachers to understand how to support secondary pupils. If you agree to take part in the study, an electronic report summarising the findings can be sent to you at your request.

• **What will happen to the data?**

Any data collected will be held in strict confidence and no real names will be used in this study or in any subsequent publications. No identifiers linking you, your child, or the school to the study will be included in any sort of report that might be published. To achieve this, participants will be assigned a number and will be referred to by that number in all records. Research records will be stored securely in a locked filing cabinet and on a password-protected computer and only the research team will have access to the records.

The results of the study may be presented at national and international conferences, and in written reports and articles. The data and results of this study may also be placed on a reputable scientific archive, so other psychologists and researchers can investigate the validity of our study or use it to answer their own research questions. The data collected may be merged with other data. However, the data will remain completely anonymised throughout these processes and your personal details will never be shared outside of the university.

• **What happens if I change my mind?**

You can change your mind at any time. If you decide you want us to stop working with your child, please contact us using the details at the bottom of this letter. If you change your mind before we have made your child's data anonymous, we will discard your child's data.

• **Who has reviewed the study?**

This project has been favourably reviewed following the procedures of the Royal Holloway Research Ethics Committee.

• **Where can I get more information?**

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Sanne van der Kleij or Dr Jessie Ricketts using the contact details below.

• **What should I do next?**

We hope that you and your child will agree to participate in the study. Please discuss the project with your child. If you and your child are happy to take part, you do not need to do anything. If, however, either you or your child does **not** want to take part, please complete the consent form on the next page and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The study will be explained to your child prior to commencing any activity.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely, Sanne van der Kleij and Jessie Ricketts

Contact details

| <i>Name</i> | <i>email</i> | <i>phone</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Dr Jessie Ricketts | Jessie.ricketts@rhul.ac.uk | 01784 414 623 |
| Dr Sanne van der Kleij | s.van-der-kleij@aston.ac.uk | 07 917 591 186 |

Research Study Title: Does Reading for Pleasure Support Vocabulary Learning? Stage 1

If you are happy for your child to take part, you **DO NOT** need to complete this form.

If you do not wish your child to take part please fill in the details below and return to the school office FAO Mrs M Lloyd by 4 March 2020.

- I **DO NOT** give consent for my child to take part in the research.

Name of child:

Name of school:

Name of parent:

Signature:

Date: