



Dear Parents and Carers,

In these unusual circumstances I am writing to introduce you to the Reading School Parents Association (RSPA). I would like to welcome you and your son to Reading School and I hope that you and your families are well.

The RSPA is an active and vibrant part of the Reading School Family and we are looking forward to welcoming and assisting you even before your son officially joins the School in September. Unfortunately, the Corona Virus lockdown means that we cannot currently organise any in person introduction events. However, as soon as it is possible the RSPA will organise a social event, so that all new parents and boys have the opportunity to connect.

The RSPA feel that one of their most vital roles in the life of the School is supporting the families of the boys and in particular the families of the new Year 7 boys. As a member of the RSPA we are delighted to say you are joining a network of parents across the whole School who can be called on to support your son's Reading School journey. The other fabulous work we do can be seen on our website, more details on that are found below.

Classlist – RSPA Online Membership Portal

As an RSPA member you will have access to our parent communication portal (Classlist). Here you will be able to immediately start to communicate with other members in your class and you will also be supported by an existing parent member who is there to help you, answer questions you may have and to provide ongoing help and information updates in getting you ready for September. We will also use this route to keep you updated as soon as we can plan introduction and social events and openings for the RSPA 2nd Hand Uniform Shop etc.

Classlist is where we as parents all support each other from a very active Lost Property group, to parents creating their own groups for school trips. Here RSPA members are able to ask questions, receive notifications around important events and share information within communities e.g. boarding communities, year groups etc.

How to join the RSPA

We would love you to join us. By joining us there is no commitment to be involved in anything unless you would like to. Please find our online membership form and details of payment <https://www.readingschoolpa.org.uk/membership-application> Any questions around membership can be directed to our Membership Secretary **Kirsty MacInnes** at **rspanemsec@gmail.com**. Kirsty will be in touch with you via email once the application is processed and will email you an invitation to join Classlist.

The RSPA objectives are to support the School, parents, carers and students, enabling opportunities or resources to be available to our boys that might not have been available otherwise. We do this using the fees and via our many routes of fundraising.

We carry out the following activities:

1. Providing a support network for the parents and carers during their time at the school.
2. Supporting extra-curricular activities e.g. External competitions, Junior Prize Giving & Year 13 Leavers' celebration.
3. Helping enhance the school's environment e.g. funding a Multi-Use Games Area, and a Canopy Project to provide a covered area outside the Library. We are also currently installing new benches around the school.
4. Fundraising to help fill any requirements not met by the Government budget, such as two new minibuses & resources for extracurricular activities.
5. Providing non-standard, additional and enhanced classroom resources e.g. books, biology & chemistry equipment, Art Resources, research laptops and leadership resources.

The RSPA also provides the following other social media routes for keeping up to date with our activities.

Facebook

The RSPA has a Facebook page called “Reading School Parents Association”. This provides details on our events throughout the year and updates on our activities. For each school year we also administrate an individual page and yours can be found at “2020 Entry Parents and Carers of Reading School”. You will be asked a couple of security questions in order to be able to join.

Website

For lots of great information around what the parents of Reading School do to support the school and ways you can assist, from online shopping sites to donating reading books from your son’s shelves the place to go is our wonderful website at www.readingschoolpa.org.uk.

Twitter - “RSPAReading”

Instagram - “ReadingSchoolParents”

LinkedIn - “Reading School Parents Association Friends and Supporters”

Please keep safe and I look forward to meeting you in person in the near future.

Best wishes from myself and all the RSPA Committee

Clare Shandling

Reading School Parents Association Chair