



Tuesday 10th September 2024
Our ref: EAB/sjt

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: St. Bernard's High School - Whole School Reading Initiative

St. Bernard's High school values reading and the way it can open doorways to new worlds. To embed the love of reading across KS3, Year 7 and Year 8 will be enjoying a Year group reading book together in form time. During tutor time once a week, students will read from the set reading book and discuss the themes and ideas with their peers and form tutor. This is 'guided reading' and promotes verbal fluency, vocabulary, listening for meaning, comprehension and understanding. This method has been researched by Education Endowment Fund with a high impact result.

We have researched suitable texts using a student voice questionnaire – the chosen text for Year 8 is 'The Bone Sparrow.'

Year 8 – The Bone Sparrow - Winner of the CILIP Amnesty Honour 2017. Shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2017. £8.99

This is a beautiful, vivid and deeply moving story about a refugee boy who has spent his entire life living in a detention centre. This novel reminds us all of the importance of freedom, hope, and the power of a story to speak for anyone who's ever struggled to find a safe home. Born in a refugee camp, all Subhi knows of the world is that he's at least 19 fence diamonds high, the nice Jackets never stay long, and at night he dreams that the sea finds its way to his tent, bringing with it unusual treasures. And one day it brings him Jimmie. Carrying a notebook that she's unable to read and wearing a sparrow made of bone around her neck - both talismans of her family's past and the mother she's lost - Jimmie strikes up an unlikely friendship with Subhi beyond the fence. As he reads aloud the tale of how Jimmie's family came to be, both children discover the importance of their own stories in writing their futures.

Please purchase a copy of the book for your daughter to read at school. The book will be available to buy from, [The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon \(9781510101555/Paperback\) | LoveReading4Kids](https://www.lovereading4kids.com/book/the-bone-sparrow-by-zana-fraillon) where each purchase will ensure 25% of the cover price will be donated back to the school.. It is also available from major book retailers. Students will need to obtain a copy by 23rd September 2024. We look forward to enjoying this reading experience as a year group and we look forward to the interesting discussion and conversations around the books. We like to follow the words of Margaret Fuller, 'Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.'

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. E Bailey
Director of teaching and learning