

Dear Parent or Guardian

The 2019 men's Rugby Union World Cup is taking place – in Japan – this autumn.

If you are a sport-loving family, now is a good time to try to engage your children with reading for pleasure – through sport. Fiction. Non-fiction. Websites. Newspapers. Magazines. Whatever you choose, the Rugby World Cup can help.

I am a children's author who came to love reading through sport. I now write sport fiction for a living. These are my **ten top tips** to encourage your sports mad children to read for pleasure.



- 1 **Set** the home page on your computer to a decent rugby website like www.bbc.co.uk/sport/rugby-union or www.rugbyworldcup.com
- 2 **Get** your children on form for the year with one of the guides to playing the game. *Know the Game: Rugby Union* is a great book to start with. Ask if your local library stocks it.
- 3 **Deliver** a newspaper's rugby supplement to your child's room on Saturday or Sunday morning to get them used to reading previews, match reports and other articles.
- 4 **Buy** them a copy of one of the popular rugby magazines, *Rugby World* or *The Rugby Paper*.
- 5 **Read together** a child-friendly player-autobiography full of statistics, pictures and childhood stories. Check first that the content is appropriate for kids. A popular one is by Jonny Wilkinson.
- 6 **Play** one of the fantasy World Cup games running in newspapers, requiring a close eye on who is injured and who has been dropped from teams. Another reason to read the rugby pages.
- 7 **Discover** superb fiction in libraries and bookshops : *Rugby Zombie* by Dan Anthony, *Rugby Spirit* by Gerard Siggins *Pride & Penalties* by Chris Higgins and my *Rugby Academy* series.
- 8 **Leave** rugby newspaper articles and match reports in regular places like on the fridge door.
- 9 **Check out** the RFU's free literacy resources at www.englandrugby.com. Check out the other home nations' websites too: www.scottishrugby.org, www.wru.co.uk and www.irishrugby.ie.
- 10 **Try** reading more yourself. You'll enjoy it and your children will want to join in too

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tom Palmer' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Tom Palmer, author of *Scrum!* and the *Rugby Academy* series published by Barrington Stoke

"A dyslexia friendly ... lively rugby tale" *The Daily Telegraph*..
www.tompalmer.co.uk

