

Newsletter 2 – Friday 23rd September 2022

Good afternoon,

Another great week has come to an end and the children have been working extremely hard in all areas of their learning this week. There has been some great learning taking place and lots of children have been telling me about their reading at home!

Reading Updates

Thank you to the parents who attended the Key Stage One and Two Reading workshops this week; it was great to see so many of you and I hope that the workshops have increased your confidence in reading with your child at home.

Your child has begun bringing their physical reading book this week and we encourage them to read at least 10 minutes each day (either their physical book or on Reading Buddy). When your child reads at home, this should be recorded in their reading journals.

In KS1, this reading book will be changed weekly so that the children read the book multiple times to develop their fluency and expression as they gain more confidence with the text. In KS2, the children may change their book more frequently, however, I would still encourage them to read the book more than once as fluency is a vital skill older children need to develop.

As I mentioned in the meetings, children flying through the levels does not support the reading development of the children. Being able to read the text is one part of a bigger picture of their reading ability; their fluency, expression and understanding of what they are reading is assessed by teachers when deciding when they are ready to move to the next level. In many cases, children may only move up 3 levels a year to be working at their expected level. Levels will change through assessments in class as well as their achievement on Reading Buddy. Today, your child will be coming home with their Reading Buddy login, which provides access to a range of levelled e-books.

Reading Buddy

Oxford Reading Buddy contains hundreds of digital books and book-quizzes all matched to each child's reading ability. Children can earn badges for good reading behaviours, be coached in their understanding by their personal 'Reading Buddy', take quizzes and record all the reading they do. Everything is captured so that your child's teacher can see how they're getting on.

Please log in to Oxford Reading Buddy when your child brings home their sign-in card today and have a look around. Do encourage your child to use it regularly and discuss what they are reading with them. You might be interested in watching them reading one or two of the Coaching eBooks because Reading Buddy is a good model of how to support and encourage children's comprehension skills as they read.

When your child is taking a quiz, please try to provide a quiet workspace for them, but resist the temptation to help them because their answers will help your child's teacher understand their needs.

Library Book

The children will also be bringing home a library book. This is a book they choose to read from our temporary libraries. Particularly with the younger children, this book should be read to them as it may be a higher level than they can access. I encourage you to read to your child as frequently as you can as the power it has in supporting your child as a reader is huge. This can be done as a whole family as even picture books, different genres or appropriate longer novels can have a huge impact on children of all ages.

We are currently in the process of designing a new school library so keep an eye out for further updates later this term.

Curriculum

As part of the Preston Hedges Trust, we are currently reviewing and refining our curriculum to ensure we succeed in ensuring the quality of our provision is fun, creative and enables high achievement. As this develops, I will update you further on the Holne Chase curriculum across school.

In the meantime, this half term the children have been studying a range of topics across school, which I wanted to update you on. Hopefully, this will support discussions at home or research you may want to complete to support your child's learning.

Year Group	Topic
Early Years	Everyday Superheroes
Year 1	Monarchy Madness
Year 2	The Victorians

Year Group	Topic
Year 3	The Egyptians
Year 4	The Romans
Year 5 and 6	World War I

Attendance

As I mentioned in the first newsletter, your child's attendance is integral to ensuring your child makes progress in their learning, so we need your child in school promptly every day. The punctuality of the children has been great and all children being in by 8:50am has enabled lessons to start promptly. Please continue to be at school ready for the classroom doors opening at 8:40am.

Schools are targeted to have an attendance of 95% and this week, Holne Chase's average attendance for the year so far is at 94%. You can also see the individual attendance averages for each of the classes so far this year. We want to ensure that Holne Chase's attendance is above the National Average so that our children have consistent access to high quality teaching and learning.

Over the next couple of weeks, I will be arranging meetings with families where their child's attendance is at risk of falling below 95% or there is frequent lateness so we can implement a plan to support you and your child to increase their attendance.

Class	Attendance (%)
RMT	97
1SSB	97
2EC	97
3LM	97
4CB	97
5AW	90
5/6EH	89
6FH	94

Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Families in Partnership Meeting	Monday 26 th October	7pm – 8pm
Early Years Reading Workshop	Thursday 29 th October	9am and 3:30pm
Books Over Breakfast	Friday 14 th October	8am – 8:40am <i>Details to follow</i>
Year 5 and 6 Bletchley Park Trip	Friday 21 st October	9am – 2pm
Last Day of Term	Friday 21 st October	3pm / 3:10pm
HALF TERM – Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October		
First Day of Term (Halloween Fancy Dress)	Monday 31 st October	8:40am <i>Halloween Tombola @ 3pm</i>
Parents Evening	Tuesday 1 st November Wednesday 2 nd November	<i>Details to follow</i>

More key dates to follow in the next couple of weeks

Mr Killick
Principal