

Dear Families,

A HUGE **'Happy New Year'** and welcome back from Team Bowsland. We hope your break provided a chance to rest and enjoy some family time. Our pupils have had a cracking start to the new term and are busily focused on their learning already, school has been a calm and productive place to be! Good work everybody, just what we expect.

After feedback from families and young people, we are taking the opportunity to change our **reward systems** in school after a time of enjoying the same 'Learning Champion' assembly for three years now. Our staff team and young people felt that things needed refreshing - and many of our older students and their parents have fed back that they don't feel that there are enough rewards for those that are always doing their 'Bowsland Best', or enough consequences for those pupils who are not engaging in learning or kind, positive play as we would hope. We're listening - and our House Captains, a panel of volunteers from Year 6 and staff teams have been working on some changes. These are going to be finalised by our Young Leadership Team and then our Governors, before coming to our school community next term. Look out for details in our newsletter!

Looking forward to working in partnership with our families in 2019,

18th January 2019



Bowsland Bulletin
Brilliance, through Bowsland Best

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Congratulations

To Mrs Jesseca Jeffery and her husband Aaron, who are expecting their third baby in the summer. Such exciting news for Team Bowsland to have another new addition! We will be looking for a fantastic replacement for Mrs Jeffery to ensure that the children have the best end to their time in class and of course, will keep families



Thank you to families and pupils who are modelling the correct school uniform each and every day, in class and in PE lessons. A smart and ordered community helps promote strong behaviour and values! Please help us by making sure your child is always wearing the correct uniform - you can check what has been agreed by Governors in our school prospectus on our website.



Lunchtime

Please make sure you keep your child's dinner money account in credit. School is spending lots of time and resources chasing families for payment of lunches that have been taken and not paid for! It's important that families know our Governing Body monitor levels of debt and have agreed that once a debt reaches £20, your child will need to bring a packed lunch to eat. Please contact our school office team if you need some support, we would be happy to see how we could help.

We ask that all children eat and carefully to support other pupils with severe allergies

We encourage children to bring home food they do not eat, rather than throw it away...so that you can see how much they are eating and what they are really enjoying in packed lunches.

We are a NUT FREE school! We have several young people with severe allergies—please do not send nuts or nut products in lunchboxes.



Please do not send chocolate bars, sugary cakes or sweets in your child's lunch. Many children become quite lively and some find it challenging to concentrate during the afternoon after eating

Re- Healthy carbohydrates, proteins and dairy are most welcome and fuel your little one well for the afternoon session.

Reading Reminders



Does your child enjoy reading? How much time do they dedicate to reading outside of school hours?

Reading is a life skill that extends way beyond the classroom and is a gateway to entering a whole world of possibilities. It also develops writing creativity, imagination, the ability to dream and wonder and promotes enjoyment and knowledge of a world beyond Bristol! Like many parts of the curriculum, we know many families are supportive and model how important this is and we thank you for that.

An interesting discussion is being held by senior leaders and our Staff team, regarding reading beyond the school day and how much some pupils are restricted from achieving more highly because they struggle in being able to manage a text - in particular, *having the stamina to keep going*. Families will know that there have been recent changes to the National SATs Assessment for reading and the linked curriculum, which have meant an enormous hike in expectations for pupils in order that they achieve expected standards for their age and beyond if they are able! As a school, we recognise the amount of exciting things that your children take part in outside of school and by no means are we suggesting that reading replaces hobbies and sports. As a team we thought it would be useful to remind how we manage reading in school and the expectations for home learning.

EYFS, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 - Reading Record Book.

We ask that parents record the weekly reading you complete with your child. It is very important that this is done. **Teachers will take these records in every MONDAY to look at and listen to your feedback. They will sign and sticker to acknowledge that your child is completing reading at home.**

Teachers will contact you if your child is not reading at home - to offer support and ideas for helping. Record Books to be kept in book bags please so that individual class reading can be recorded in the books as well.

Year 4-6 – Reading Log

Pupils are expected to record the weekly reading that they do, clear guidelines are stuck in the front of the record books. Reading Questions are stuck in the back of the books and are there to firstly support pupils in recording their thoughts about their reading and secondly to provide a prompt for parents to discuss reading with their child.

Teachers will take these records in every MONDAY to look at and listen to your feedback. They will sign and sticker to acknowledge that your child is completing reading at home, as well as signing 'Wow Wizard Words' (part of our improving vocabulary in writing project across school) identified from reading in back of book.

Teachers will contact you if your child is not reading at home - to offer support and ideas for helping. Books to be kept in bags please so that individual class reading can be recorded in the books as well please.



WHY is this all so important?

1. Children who read often and widely get better at it.

After all, practice makes improvement in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.

2. Reading exercises our brain.

Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain rather than watching television, for example. Reading strengthens brain connections and builds NEW connections.

3. Reading improves concentration.

Children have to focus and be quiet so that they can follow the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer as they grow older.

4. Reading teaches children about the world around them.

Through reading a variety of books children learn about people, places, and events outside of their own experience.

5. Reading improves vocabulary and writing skills.

Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking. Great readers are always great writers. Those who struggle with writing often don't read.

6. Reading develops a child's imagination.

As we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.

7. Reading helps children to develop empathy.

As children develop they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation. This helps friendships and relationships.

8. Reading is fun.

A book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space and is light to carry, so you take it anywhere so you can never be bored if you have a book in your bag. Those who say reading is boring are not reading the right material!

9. Reading is a great way to spend time together.

Reading together on the sofa, bedtimes stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending quality time together.

10. Children who read achieve better in school.

Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English. Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.

READING WORKSHOP AT BOWSLAND, Come and join us!

Monday 11th February - 9.00am OR 3pm, in the school hall. Come along to work with your child and complete some fun reading activities together and find out more about how you can support and enjoy reading at home.

