

Bredhurst Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break.

I will be sending out the newsletter as usual on Friday but wanted to inform you of some of the changes we have introduced, particularly regarding early reading and phonics.

Previously we used 'Letters and Sounds' to teach children early phonics, this was an effective scheme but due to Government requirements, this scheme has been revised. The Government's aim is to close the gap for the children who may continue to struggle with phonics.

We have adopted the Government's affiliated scheme 'Little Wandle', which is a very comprehensive scheme teaching phonics, reading and early writing. We will be using this for all year R and Year 1 children. For any other children with gaps in phonics learning we will also be using this scheme as a 'catch up'.

The scheme works with a daily phonics lesson for all year R + Year 1 children and an additional 1:1 or small group catch up session for those children who have not managed the learning within the initial daily phonics lesson.

The children will also have 2 guided reading sessions a week in addition to the daily phonics. The phonics scheme is aligned to the reading scheme we currently use in school Collins 'Big Cats'.

In years R + 1 the children will be reading these books as part of their guided reading sessions, they will then access the same books they have been reading in an electronic format at home with you. A log-in will be sent to you as soon as we start reading at school. We would like you to listen to your child read the Big Cat book (they should be reading it with at least 90% fluency as they have already practiced this book in school).

In addition to this, we would like you to read to your child for enjoyment, with the aim of encouraging and harnessing a love for reading.

You will be able to select these books from our class library. For Fir Tree and Forge classes these will be available daily for you to select with your child – from outside Fir Tree classroom. The aim is for you to read these books to your child, not for your child to read them to you; they may be too difficult for children to read themselves.

Research has shown that reading to your child has the biggest impact on their reading comprehension.

From year 2 the children will be taking home a Big Cat reader unless they are on red or black level – in which case they will no longer be on the reading scheme. (years 5 and 6 predominantly)

We would encourage you to listen to your child read their reading book. The children will also be able to select a book from their class library to take home. This is for you to read to your child, not for your child to read to you with an aim to develop a love for reading.

All children will continue to have handwriting and spelling as part of their normal timetable. However, spellings will no longer be sent home for children to learn – they will be learning and practicing using the spellings for four days and on the fifth day of the week they will have a dictated piece of text to be able to apply the spellings.



You will be able to find the spelling list on our school website under Curriculum, English-this will be made available over the next two weeks.

We would like to invite you into school to further understand the way we will be teaching phonics and reading and to give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Tuesday 13th September 9.00a.m (after drop off) **'Listen to phonics talk' Yr R + Y1**
Tuesday 20th September 9.00a.m (after drop off) **'Home reading' Yr 2 -6**

You will also be able to access the 'Little Wandle' website for further information. There will be a link for this on the school website. This can be found under Curriculum, English, reading. It will be available from next week.

Best Wishes

Mrs M Cox
Head Teacher

A Few Dates for your Diary.

September

12th Rocksteady Starts
15th PGL Meeting 3.00p.m.
22nd Forge Worship – Parents welcome
22nd Yr 6 Secondary Transfer Meeting 2.45p.m
29th Kemsley Worship – Parents Welcome
30th Macmillan Coffee Morning

October

6th Hurstwood Worship – Parents welcome
10th Harvest Celebrations
13th Oakwood Worship – Parents welcome
15th Pumpkin Morning 11a.m. -1p.m.
18th Parents Evening
19th Parents Evening
20th Fir Tree Worship – Parents welcome
31st Staff Development Day

November

1st Children return to school
11th Fireworks Display

December

1st Advent Event
6th Infant Nativity - 2.30p.m.
7th Infant Nativity – 4.00p.m.
7th Year 6 Experience Christmas
13th KS2 Nativity (TBC)
16th Christmas Parties



