

# BOURNE ABBEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore

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Bourne

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16<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

## Happy New Year!

Welcome back to the beginning of an exciting Bourne Abbey school year. A warm welcome to new staff, new children and new families. A huge well done to our amazing Reception children. What a stunning start they have made!

I would like to thank and congratulate everyone on a most exceptional first two weeks back in still challenging times. It has been an absolute privilege for me to be in our fabulous school and to see the children settle so quickly and happily. It is truly wonderful to hear the sound of laughter and learning and for the children to be together, rather than in class bubbles, is incredibly special.

The enthusiasm and energy of staff and children alike has been a joy to behold and we have had so much positive and supportive feedback from many parents and carers. WOW!!

All our staff will continue to provide high quality pastoral care for our children. Our trained Mental Health and Wellbeing First Aiders have been on hand to support them as they return to school. We are going to carry out our Pupil Survey later this term. Usually we do this in the spring term but, as we did last year, we want to make sure we are checking in early with the children after such unprecedented times.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our staff team who worked extremely hard in the holiday to make sure everything looked amazing and was ready for the children coming back to school.



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, and your children, for your fabulous and thoughtful support at the start of this new school year.

## **Attendance and Behaviour Matters!**

A huge thank you for your magnificent effort with attendance at the start of this school year. Our attendance figure for our first week was an awesome 98.4%! The Senior Leadership Team continue to review our 'live' COVID-19 risk assessment which is available to be viewed in the school office. Following DfE guidelines, we have also created a COVID-19 contingency plan outlining what we would do if the number of pupils or staff who test positive for COVID-19 meet the Public Health England threshold and how we would operate if we were advised to take extra measures to help break the chain of transmission. We will continue to follow meticulous and rigorous Coronavirus safety procedures. We have adapted many of our school policies, including our Behaviour Policy in-light of COVID-19 and the children included their ideas for keeping safe when they drew up their Class Charters last week. Please see our updated policies on the school website. We will ensure that any pupils who have to self-isolate due to COVID-19 will receive high quality online learning, if they are well enough.

We are thrilled that our daily Collective Worship are once again in the school hall. We will still have our Golden Assemblies but altogether. Although we cannot invite parent/carers into school to join us for these right now, we will make sure you are notified if your child is chosen to receive the award and we will also put the assemblies on our school website, being mindful of photo consent of course.

### 'Take Care' Homework

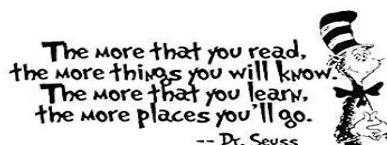
Thank you for all the time and effort you put into supporting the school's 'take care work' ethos and helping your child with their homework, especially when it is a more creative idea that comes home and with their reading. I know it may sometimes seem a bit of an imposition, but believe me, the work you share in this way, the value you attach to it and the example you set is extremely valuable and can benefit your child not just now, but right into secondary school and even beyond. In the event that children cannot be in school due to COVID-19, we have a plan in place for learning at home which we will share with you if and when needed.

### Reading is our Thing!

We cannot stress enough the importance of reading at home and not just when children are in Early Years and Key Stage One! There are many benefits for all age groups, which include:

1. Children who read often and widely get better at it. After all, practise makes perfect 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 TV, for example. Reading strengthens brains connections and builds NEW connections.
3. Reading improves concentration. Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story/book when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.
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 language 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.
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.
7. Reading helps children to develop empathy. As children develop they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.
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.
9. Reading is a great way to spend time together. Reading together on the sofa, bedtime stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.
10. Children who read have more opportunities to fulfil their potential. Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English.

Through our strong partnership between home and school, we want to continue to develop a life-long love of literature through reading.



**And finally...**

Once again all of us at Bourne Abbey are looking forward to a successful, exciting and happy new school year. We start this term with our Christian Values of 'Creation & Creativity' and 'Respect & Reverence' which are perfect as we reflect on our 3Rs;

- Respect & Take Care of Ourselves
- Respect & Take Care of Others
- Respect & Take Care of the Environment

*'Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love.'* Romans 8:39

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or worries as we progress with enthusiasm onwards and upwards as a school family, flying high like the geese through these still uncertain Coronavirus times.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sarah Moore  
Executive Headteacher

As a RRS (Rights Respecting School - UNICEF) this upholds the following articles from the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child):

UNICEF

- Article 29: Every child has the right to be the best they can.
- Article 28: Every child has the right to an education.
- Article 2: Everyone has equal rights whatever their race, religion, ability, whatever they think or say or whatever their family.

