

BOURNE ABBEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore

Head of School: Mrs S Buttress

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12th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to the beginning of another exciting Bourne Abbey school year. A warm welcome to new staff, new children and new families. We have had another very exciting summer at school and our new 'Abbey Ark' Kindergarten and Nursery build is almost complete! I would like to say a huge thank to all our staff team who worked extremely hard in the holiday to make sure the whole school looked fantastic and was ready for the children coming back after their summer holiday.

Thank you also to all of you, who have sent your children back to school looking fabulous and very smart in their uniform and school shoes. Our school really does have "The WOW factor!"

Start to the School Day!

We would like to make a change to how the children in **KS2** come into school first thing in the morning. The gate will be opened at 8:45am as usual, but the children should come straight into school, taking their coats and bags to the cloakroom and make their way to the classroom where their teacher and/or teaching assistant will be waiting for them. All children should be in school by 8:55am, the gates will be locked at 9:00am as usual. We have trialled this system in Year 6 and the children and teachers feel that it creates a calm start to the day for our older children.

The arrangements for Reception and KS1 children remain unchanged. Parents/carers of Reception & KS1 pupils should wait with their child(ren) in the KS1 playground until the class teacher or a member of the support staff team is out on the playground and the whistle has been blown.

The change for KS2 will start from Monday 16th September, we will of course talk to the children at the end of this week to make sure they know about the new routine.

UNICEF Success

I am absolutely thrilled to be able to share the news with you that we have achieved our UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award. This was a reaccreditation visit in June.



The Assessor highlighted that particular strengths of the school include:

- The breadth and depth of children's knowledge of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and their understanding of the related concepts such as the unconditional and inherent nature of rights.
- The way in which the school has built upon and strengthened its longstanding Gold RRSA status making good use of ongoing RRSA guidance and initiatives such as OutRight to maintain enthusiasm about rights across the school.
- The passionate commitment of staff, pupils and the wider school community to the promotion of children's rights.
- Exceptional practice in the Early Years/Nursery phase supporting children in their first encounter with their rights.

He also stated 'Discussion with the children about their understanding of themselves as rights holders provided an excellent framework for them to articulate all the different ways in which they can enjoy their rights in school.' 'Among many other elements, they referred to being healthy, having a good education, being kept safe and having their privacy respected and their opinions listened to and taken seriously. A Y2 pupil summed it up by saying: "*All our rights help us to be the best we can be!*"'

The report goes on to comment 'Throughout the visit, it was very clear that mutually respectful relationships are prevalent across the school. The children spoke about how well everyone gets on and how friendly their school is, and they knew that respect is the recurring word in the school's three core values.'

Well done to our UNICEF Ambassadors as well as Mrs Gould and Mrs Mitchell who lead our UNICEF work in school. Please see our website for the full report.



Attendance

A huge thank you for your support with attendance last year. We managed to achieve 96.2% which is rated by Ofsted as 'Good'. This year we are though aiming for at least 97% which is 'Outstanding' attendance and with your continued support and effort I know we can achieve this.

We are continuing with our bronze, silver and gold certificates at Christmas, Easter and end of the school year for children who achieve 100% attendance. We will also continue to have weekly awards for classes and individual children in our Achievement Assembly. At the end of the Autumn Term there will once again be a family prize for 100% attendance. A name will be drawn out of a hat in December to win a Christmas Hamper. Good Luck everyone!

Please also remember we understand that some children, through no fault of their own, may not be able to attend school every day, so we also have awards for weekly attendance and of course many other achievement rewards too.

'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. 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. We really have seen some amazing pieces of 'take care' homework! If, however, homework is ever becoming frustrating, upsetting or generally counterproductive, please just drop the teacher a line.

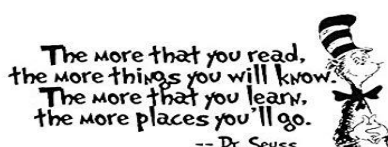
Reading is our Thing!

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...

We are currently reviewing our three-year Academy Improvement Plan by seeking views and suggestions from pupils, staff, governors and parents/carers. Please could you complete the suggestion sheet enclosed with this letter and return it to the front office by Friday 20th September 2019. We will be using them to help us move further forward this year as we strive to create the very best curriculum and school that we can.

Please remember Parent View gives you chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school. The survey can be completed at any time; you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected. We would welcome you all to share your views of our school on Parent View www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

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 at any time. Thank you once again to everyone who contributes to the life of our fabulous school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sarah Moore
Executive Headteacher

- 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.