



# Burghfield St Mary's Primary School

## Autumn Term 2 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

Our School Values of 'RESPECT' are constantly reinforced with the children, parents help at home in continuing this does make a huge difference. We look to ensure that all of our children are not only independent learners but are also responsible citizens that support their community.

## PTA Christmas Fayre

It is only 4 weeks to our school Christmas Fayre. I would like to thank all our families that have supported us with sweet and bottle donations. The Christmas Fayre is our major funding raising event of the year, without the **AMAZING** support of our school PTA we would not be able to provide the rich and varied curriculum for our children. At the moment there is only a very small number of parents that have been able to offer support for our PTA, I would urge parents to please 'get involved' with our PTA. The funds raised for our school are vital. Schools are not expecting any real increase in our funds, the Government is expected to keep funding at the same level. As such, we will have increased costs due to price increases. The 'helpful' government donation, as part of the Budget, (for our school may be around £7000) is ring-fenced and can only be used through our Capital budget.

**Our PTA DOES NEED YOUR HELP, please come along (or contact them) to offer your support.**

**The next PTA is on Monday 5th November at 7:30pm**

**Staffing news.** Last month we interviewed for a new Lunchtime Supervisor (Support Assistant) and a new infant Teaching Assistant. I am very pleased to announce that we have appointed Samantha Eggleton as our Lunchtime Support and Heather Hayes as our infant Teaching Assistant.

Thank you for the hundreds of plastic bottles brought into school, it was a brilliant response. We now have hundreds of poppies that will be attached to our school fence, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. We will also be installing two Perspex soldiers on the benches at the front of the school, to honour the service and sacrifice of the fallen. The perspex figures are from the 'There, but not there' collection.

In two weeks our Year 3 children will be performing at the Hexagon Theatre as part of the Reading Schools Choir. After Christmas our Year 5's will be performing at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Berkshire Schools Choir, and our Year 4's will be performing at the Anvil Theatre in Basingstoke as part of the West Berkshire Schools Choir. The Year 4's will also be playing the clarinet and oboes at the Anvil, they will be sharing their skills at the next two children's assemblies.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE DEADLINE FOR SENDING IN CHRISTMAS CARD ORDERS IS MONDAY 5TH NOVEMBER**

### Headteacher

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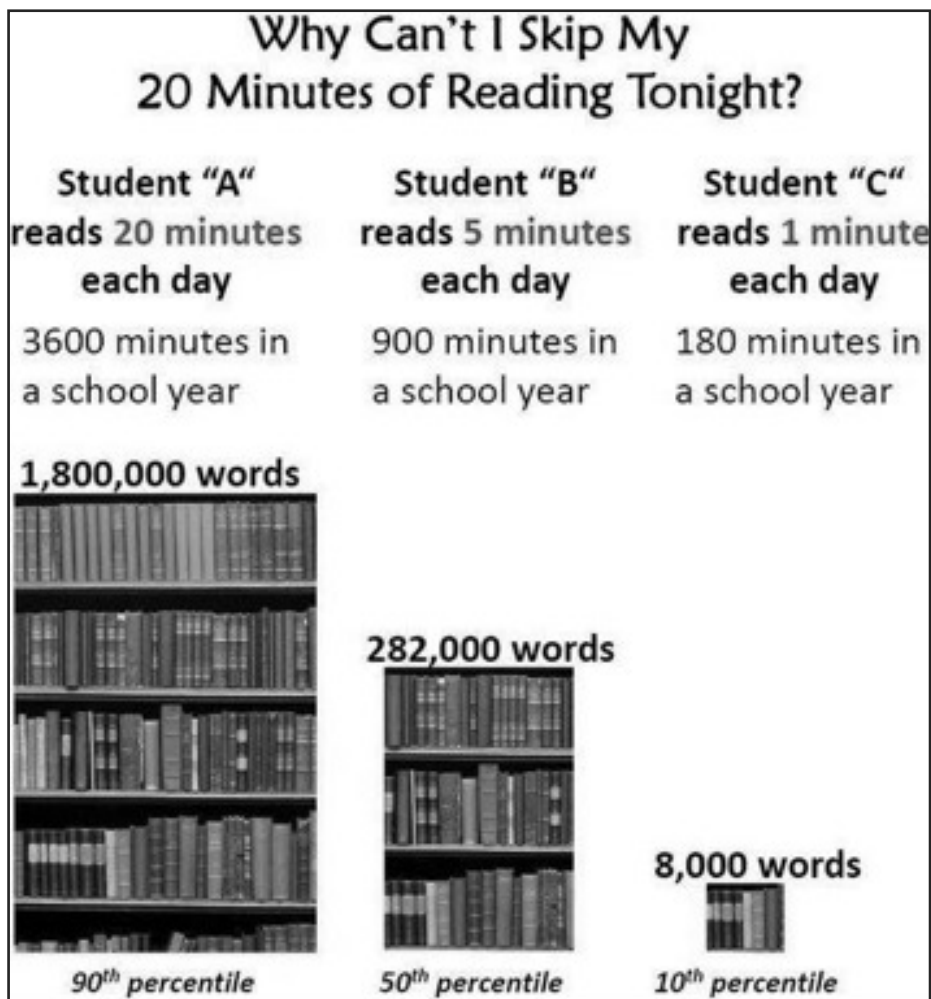
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As parents, the support you provide for your child(ren) at home is crucial. I would encourage all of our parents to regularly read with their child. It does make a huge difference to your child's progress in school. The more you read at home with your child then the more progress at school they WILL make. Last term we had a staff training day exploring 'Improving children's reading' using Pie Corbett's Talk for Reading. Above is an extract from the training. Basically it implies that children that aren't read with make significantly less progress, and are in the bottom 10% of children Nationally. Those children that are listened to everyday DO make significantly more progress and may end up in the top 10% Nationally. Please, please, please read with your child at home. The difference it will make to their education is **MASSIVE**.

Children (and adults) will become **anxious** at times, this is only natural. As adults, it is our responsibility to guide them through their **anxious** times. This term we will be working with external specialists to teach the children strategies to reduce their anxieties and gain resilience.

Your support of our School Values will help the children succeed. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any individual worries please don't hesitate to contact us.



### Children in Need and Our School Council

Well done to the children that have been part of the School Council for the past year, they have worked really well with Mrs Clifford exploring activities and ways of improving our school. Their term of office has now come to an end. On Tuesday 13th November Years 1 to 6 will elect new children to join the School Council (one boy and one girl from each class).

The present School Council finish their term of office by organising our Children in Need activities on Friday 16th November. The children will be able to come to school in non-uniform and CRAZY hair for a donation of £1. There will also be separate fundraising activity for each class. The class that raises the most money (average per head), not including the £1 donation, will have the opportunity to cut/ shave Mr Gallagher's hair at 2:30pm on the day. I would like to say a huge 'Thanks!!' to the out-going School Council for their choice of fundraising activity! All money raised will go to the Children in Need appeal.

#### *Parking & U-Turns*

Please can we ask that all parents and carers be mindful of careful driving outside the school gates and also remind everyone that the lay-by (by the car park) is for dropping off only in the mornings. If you need to park please can you move further down the road. School Road needs to be kept free of school traffic, it's one of our 'Safe' crossing points for the children.

Help keep our children safe, please use the entrance to Green Farm to turn around.

Those parents that perform U-turns outside the school risk hitting our children.

Park Safe - Drive Smart

Please report any incidents you witness to the police, and if possible take a photo/ video of the incident. This will allow the police to deal with the motoring offence.

*Dates for Diaries*

**Monday 5th November— Dead for returning Christmas Card orders**

**Monday 5th November— 7:30 p.m. School Association Christmas Fayre Meeting**

**Wednesday 7th November—Clarinets playing as part of Children's Assembly**

**Tuesday 13th November—Year 3's 7 pm Junior Music Festival at the Hexagon**

**Wednesday 14th November—Rags 2 Riches Clothing collection (recycling)**

**Wednesday 14th November 9:1 am—Oboe performance in assembly**

**Tuesday 20th November 1:15—3:00 pm Year 5's RAH rehearsal at Pangbourne**

**Saturday 1st December— 11 am—2 pm Christmas Fayre**

**Tuesday 11th December 6:30 pm—Years 1 & 2 Nativity at church**

**Thursday 13th December—Whole School Christmas Lunch**

**Tuesday 18th December—3:30—4:30 pm—Infant Disco**

**5:00—6:30 pm—Junior Disco**

**Thursday 20th December 2:30 p.m.—END OF TERM**