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Matthew 5:14 – 16

Dear Families,

We have had a busy time at the beginning of term, both at school and engaging with the wider community in Lambourn and beyond. Thank you to Dan & Clare Kubler and Ollie McPhail, Mark and Rob from BHST for organising and delivering an inspiring morning.



Kubler Racing & Lambourn Gallops Educational Visit

On Tuesday 12th September Year 6 participated in an educational visit to Kubler Racing Yard at Sarsen Farm and toured Lambourn Gallops to observe racehorses exercising. Experiencing the different venues enriched the children's learning in a variety of curriculum areas. It was an excellent opportunity for the children to engage in outdoor activities for young people at the local trainer's yard. All of the morning activities focused on both educating the children about the horseracing industry and engaging them with a sport that is at the heart of their local community.

The visit was organised in conjunction with Racing to School which is an education charity that delivers free outdoor learning activities for young people at racecourses, studs and trainers' yards across the country. A training yard is where thoroughbreds are trained to become racehorses. During the visit to the yard, the children were able to meet the trainers – Daniel and Clare Kubler - and ask questions about their role and the industry. This was followed by a tour of the yard by the trainer, they then watched the horses exercise on the gallops and met the horses.

Talking to the staff about their various roles at the trainers' yard provided a unique insight in to the most important jobs in the racing industry and how the different curriculum subjects they are learning at school will be invaluable in the real-life world of work. Once back at school the children found out about the determination, resilience and hard work that it takes to become a jockey. They had the opportunity to test their stamina and fitness on the equicizer.

The children had a wonderful and enriching learning experience.



Dates for your

Diary

Library Summer Reading Challenge

1st July – 15th September

Term 1

**Tuesday 5th
September – Friday
20th October 2023**

Phonics Parent Drop-in

**Thursday 28th
September F2 & Y1
3.00pm**

INSET Day

**Monday 30th
October 2023**

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"My child isn't interested in reading, I can't get them off a screen!"

Don't despair! The staff team understand what it is like to encounter reluctant, struggling, and even non-readers. Here are some accessible strategies you might find useful.

There's a reason your kids love screens, but there's an even greater reason to use reading for pleasure to provide some balance.

Digital providers (including social media, gaming, streaming services) spend millions of pounds appealing directly to your children. They've created a wonderful, multi-coloured, fast-paced world of **CONSTANT STIMULATION** and **INSTANT GRATIFICATION** that is highly compelling.

Let's face it, it's very hard for a simple book to compete with this assault on their senses. It takes a while to get into a book, it's more effortful than scrolling through TikTok videos, it's not as instantly rewarding as a film or boxset and it's less stimulating to the senses than Fortnite...

...but actually these are exactly the reasons WHY we need young people to (re)discover their love of reading, so that reading can sit alongside these other distractions and help achieve the following:

- Reading a book or listening to a story relaxes our bodies and minds: research estimates that 6 minutes of reading can reduce stress and anxiety by 68% - more than listening to music or watching TV.
- Reading gives our senses a break from the constant assault of digital media. It's important children have some peace and quiet to allow their imagination to take the reins for a while – and who knows where that will take them?
- As well as improved knowledge, vocabulary and writing skills, reading different stories with different characters builds other important life skills like empathy, analytical thinking and problem solving. It aids sleep, boosts self-esteem, builds good communication skills and strengthens their predictive skills.
- Reading for pleasure also means they're more likely to do well at their GCSEs.

The benefits are clear and wide ranging. What's more, your kids won't need an internet connection or any special equipment, batteries or chargers to do it!

Although it is hard, it is also more important than ever that we help our children to love reading to provide essential balance to the digital world that will surely dominate their lives.

One day, they might even thank us....!

So what can you do to help?

How as parents can we help get our kids into reading when they're not keen in the first place? Well, we suggest meeting them in their world, and then moving them along the pathway to more sophisticated titles but importantly, going at their pace, not ours!

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These are some great starting points:

- Books that act like games
- Audiobooks
- Reading and listening to stories together (whatever their age and reading ability)
- Graphic novels, comics and magazines
- Books with TV and gaming tie-ins

The starting point is asking what are your children into - not what you want them to be into but what do they actually like - gaming, football, fashion, Manga?

Find an accessible comic, magazine, annual or non-fiction book that hooks into this passion. Then try and find progressively more sophisticated reading material to progress them along a reading journey - but take it at their pace. If you find a series or type of reading that they really like, try and find more of it so they get into a habit of reading before moving on.

Share stories with them – maybe you need to start by reading with them (regardless of their age and reading ability). Sharing a book together can be really special – you can read or listen together. In the next few pages, we've made some suggestions on how to introduce reading to non-readers, and then illustrated some potential journeys that a child could take.

These are just ideas - you'll find your own!

We hope this has given you some ideas to help get your children more interested in reading. However they respond, keep trying.

To quote J. K. Rowling...

"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book."

Read for Good

This week we received a very exciting delivery- a free box of books! Kindly donated by Read for Good, a personalised box of books arrived for our new library.

At Read for Good, the dream is for every child and young person in the UK to fall in love with reading for pleasure and to experience the life-long benefits it brings. Read for Good's expertly curated Brilliant Box of Books offers children and young people access to the most beautiful brand new books that contemporary children's publishing can offer. From the latest award-winning fiction and non-fiction to bestselling graphic novels and updated re-prints of treasured classics, the aim is to offer instant excitement, escapism and adventure to a generation of disadvantaged children and young people.

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The children loved the new variety of books and quickly found some new favourites.



Year 5 & Year 6 Mixed Football Tournament



A huge well done to our Y5 & Y6 mixed football team for their participation in the football tournament at Trinity School on Wednesday 13th September 2023. We were so proud to see our girls playing against some all-male teams at the event. Mr Rackham & Mrs Findlay were extremely impressed with their sporting behaviour, resilience, determination and positivity. They truly **'let their light shine'** for all to see.

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Christian Vision & Values Medals

'Let Your Light Shine'

F2 - Sofia & Halle

Year 1 - Scott & Elodie

Year 2 - Flynn & Jackson

Year 3 - Bowie & Ellie-Mae

Year 4 - Mia & Logan

Year 5 - Amy & Thomas

Year 6 - Sydney & Riley

Reading Champions

Alfie & Edie

Rex & Aliya

Children show us what you love about reading next week!

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Principal's Awards

Congratulations to all the children who received Principal's Awards this week. We are all very impressed with the following children's quality of work and commitment to their learning.

Everyone else, remember never, never, never give up!

F2 - Meela, Noah, Enzo & Jackson

Year 1 - Benecio, Marnie, Oscar & Elodie

Year 2 - Josie, Reggie, Jessica & Liam

Year 3 - Anthony, Gabriel, Olivia W & Isla

Year 4 - Logan, Bella, Sharan & Anni

Year 5 - Lily, Tayla, Eilidh & Layla

Year 6 - Dotty, Jan, Mya & Spencer

Letter to school leaders on mild illness and school attendance

The Chief Medical Officer and leading health professionals have recently written to schools to provide a clinical and public health perspective on mild illnesses and school attendance. [The letter](#) includes useful information for schools to pass onto parents including when it's appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with a mild illness.

The DfE is also encouraging schools to share the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) with parents and carers in their area which has further information.

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Lambourn Chickens

An important update about our living eggs. Our chickens have now reached maturity and last week saw our very first eggs ready for collection. The children are providing great care for the chickens and are ensuring their food and water is maintained daily and enjoying collecting the eggs. We also had our very first double yoke egg!

