



Maids Moreton C of E School

Small enough to care, large enough to inspire



Newsletter No 1. 1st September 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all the staff and governors, I welcome you back to the start of the new school year. I hope you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday with your families and feel refreshed and ready for the Autumn Term. I would like to extend a warm welcome back to Mrs Seaward who will be working alongside Mrs Reece in Year 1/2. We also welcome two new members of staff to the Maids Moreton team. Mrs Hannah Dunkley and Miss Becky Eveleigh will be joining us as midday meal supervisors. We are also delighted to meet our new Reception children. The Government has set out its Step 4 of the roadmap and operational guidance for schools. Three weeks ago, I sent out a letter containing some frequently asked questions and answers which will hopefully reassure you and provide you with more details regarding our Covid-19 safety plan and other non Covid related arrangements for the start of the Autumn Term 2021. Please refer to this document for further information.

Dates for Your Diary

Diary dates for the whole of the school year are now published on our school website under "News and Events-Diary Dates 2021-2022. You will be notified of any changes to the diary dates with as much notice as possible, should they occur.

School expansion update

Over the Summer the school expansion project has continued at a great pace! During the holiday, I have made regular visits to the site to check that everything is going to plan. Some areas of the building are near completion and the remaining areas, fingers crossed, should be completed and handed over to us by late October. The new classroom, library, staffroom and extended hall look splendid and we look forward to resourcing them so that they are fully operational as soon as possible.



Visits to Village and Church

Sparrows [Year 1 and 2] and Magpies [Year 3] parents will shortly receive a Parentmail where we ask your permission to allow your child to walk to the church and the village during the forthcoming year, accompanied by school staff. We would be grateful if you could complete this as soon as possible. Reception parents [Robins] have already completed this as part of the "Starting School" pack. Many thanks.

PTA

Here at Maids Moreton, we are fortunate to have a small but very active PTA who work with such energy and commitment to support the children's education in so many ways and provide vital fundraising for the school. We were incredibly disappointed that we were not able to hold our Summer Fayre this year and last. It is such a lovely day for our school and local community whilst raising much needed funds. For example the money raised in 2019, enabled us to pay for specialist dance and music tuition throughout the year for all our pupils. Although we were not able to do some of our usual fundraising events during the pandemic, the PTA found new and inventive ways of organising special occasions for our pupils including our reinvented children's Summer Fayre in July. You may not know that you can also support our school whilst doing any online shopping with the Amazon Smile program. By selecting us as your charity we receive a donation at no extra cost to you. Further information is available on the school website [www.maidsmoreton.bucks.sch.uk] under the "Our Community" tab with a direct link to our Amazon Smile webpage.

Even in these challenging times, the PTA has still been working hard and thinking outside the box to provide alternative fundraising opportunities and events. New parents are automatically "members", so please do come along to the first meeting. [Date, time and format to be confirmed]. I would like to take this opportunity to thank last year's committee, for their considerable contribution to the school.

Arrival/Collection Arrangements

Could I please remind all parents who drop their children off by car, not to park on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school or on the bend at the top of Avenue Road. As part of our School Travel Plan we operate a "park and walk" facility. Parents who do not live within walking distance of the school are encouraged to park outside the church or at Maids Moreton Playing Fields car park so your child/ren can participate in the school's "Go for Gold" scheme. Both facilities are less than 5 minutes walking distance from school. Children are encouraged to walk to school and participate in the "Go for Gold" scheme, which rewards them for opting to walk.

Meet the Teacher sessions

In September we will be hosting "meet the teacher" sessions for parents from each class in their respective classrooms. The dates are as follows: Magpies: Thursday 9th, Sparrows: Thursday 16th. Robins' parents will meet the teachers at their individual home visits. All meetings will take place between 2.45pm-3.10pm. We will also send out a termly curriculum forecast for each class, which outline details of the curriculum to be covered this term and other important information. These, alongside our detailed Knowledge Organisers will also be available to view on the school website.

We also hold a phonics meeting for Reception [Robins] parents at the start of term. This will take place on Thursday 23rd September at 2.45pm in the Reception classroom.

Reading with DERIC

As a school, we believe that creating a culture of reading is a vital tool in ensuring our children are given the best possible life chances. At Maids Moreton, we aim to develop children's word reading and reading comprehension skills in tandem through the explicit teaching of reading skills. To support us in this aim, we are introducing "reading with DERIC" for September 2021.

Children need to be aware of the reading skills they are using in order to give them a greater understanding of what makes a well-rounded reader. These skills are called reading with DERIC.

DERIC stands for:

Decode (word reading)

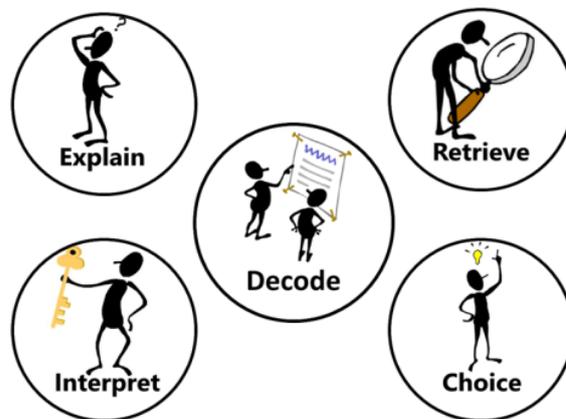
Explain (explaining unfamiliar words and developing vocabulary)

Retrieve (finding information in the text)

Interpret (inference skills/reading "between the lines")

Choice (the choices made by the author, e.g. use of language)

To help the children learn which reading skill they need to draw upon to answer text specific questions, DERIC uses 5 child friendly symbols:



At the early stages of reading, in EYFS and early Key Stage 1, the main priority is on decoding—using phonic knowledge to read words. It is vital that children first develop the phonic knowledge to access texts. As children move up the school and develop reading fluency, the focus shifts away from decoding to reading comprehension. The children are required to become more analytical readers who can demonstrate a thorough understanding of what they read. As we move into Key Stage 2, we therefore lose the "D" and just have ERIC.



How can I support to develop my child's DERIC skills at home?

A child who is a good decoder, with a large sight vocabulary is not necessarily a good well rounded reader. It is really important to engage in discussion with your child to ensure they have a true understanding of the text. This is best done after reading smaller passages from the book rather than the whole text or chapter. In the inside cover of your child's reading record, you will find a prompt sheet with the types of questions to ask.

Alongside this newsletter, I have attached the following guides for parents:

- A guide for parents in EYFS and Key Stage 1 [Reception to Year 2]
- A guide for parents in Key Stage 2 [Year 3 and above]
- A question prompt sheet for parents in Key Stage 1
- A question prompt sheet for parents in Key Stage 2. [Year 3 and above]
- How to develop higher order reading skills presentation for Year 2 and 3 children.

These guides contain a wealth of information as to our approach to reading at Maids Moreton and how you can support at home. The guide for Key Stage 2 parents is particularly important as it explains our new way of working for our Year 3 pupils.

Dos:

- Encourage your child to read a wide range of literature from a variety of authors, appropriate to their maturity, age and level of understanding. Encourage them to read a range of genres, including fiction, non fiction and poetry.
- Encourage your child to read real books as well as scheme books.
- Read with your child and question their comprehension at regular intervals whilst reading, e.g. eliciting the meaning of new vocabulary in the context, summarising what has happened so far, retrieving information, inferring. [See reading prompt information sheet for parents for ideas of the type of questions to ask]
- Read to your child as well as listening to them read so you can discuss and appreciate stories together.
- Foster and widen their interests so they develop a love of reading.

Don't:

- Read a book once in one sitting without taking time to discuss it. Take time to enjoy it and read for meaning. Reading is not a race through the scheme!
- Compare your child to others and become unduly anxious. Children can pick up on this and become disheartened.
- Rely on reading scheme books alone to practise your child's reading skills
- Read books at home that are too complicated for your child's maturity, age and level of understanding. They may be able to read the words, but their enjoyment will be hampered by a lack of understanding of the meaning.

Further information about the school approach to reading can be found on the school website.



Uniform



Thank you for your continuing support regarding school uniform. Visitors often comment that our children look very smart indeed! Until October half term, children can choose to wear their Summer or Winter uniform depending on the weather. Please could we request that all items, including PE kit, are clearly named, so that any lost items can be quickly returned to the rightful owners. We have a lost property box located in the lobby between the Sparrows and Magpie classrooms. All children also require wellies and waterproofs from the start of the year to access the Forest School's area and to go on the field at playtimes and lunchtimes. Sun hats are also required during hot weather.

Attendance Policy



At the beginning of a new school year may I take the opportunity to refresh parents about the school's attendance policy. We are not in a position to authorise absences for family holidays taken during the school term time. This means that any holiday taken during term time will be shown as an unauthorised absence on your child's records and could incur fines.

When booking holidays abroad, please also consider any potential quarantine implications which may or may not be in place, and the loss of subsequent schooling on return. I would therefore ask parents to consider carefully their holiday arrangements mindful of the negative impact it has on your child's education.

If your child is poorly, we request you let the school know as early as possible, by parentmail or by telephone, using the answering service if no-one is available to take your call. If your child is not present for morning registration, Mrs Power will telephone you if we have not received an explanatory message.

An attendance guide for parents can be found on our school website.

We very much hope that there will be no interruption to the children's education this academic year and that we can resume many of events and activities in their pre pandemic and pre building work format! We will do our utmost to provide an environment which is as safe as possible whilst also providing our usual full and vibrant curriculum. Thank you for your support.

Keira Ainsworth Head Teacher, September 1st 2021.

