



Maids Moreton C of E School

Small enough to care, large enough to inspire



Newsletter No 1. 1st September 2022.

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 to our new members of staff, Mrs Littlewood, Mr Troup, Mrs Wildman, Mrs Pallett and Mrs Wood who are joining our team this term. We are also delighted to meet our new Reception children. Just a reminder that our new start and finish times are now in operation. All children should be lined up on the playground ready to come in at **8.50am** and we will be ready to be picked up at the new finish time of **3.20pm**.

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 2022-2023". You will be notified of any changes to the diary dates with as much notice as possible, should they occur.

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, 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.

Fruit for snack time

Children in Robins and Sparrows will receive a piece of fruit provided by the school at snack time each morning as part of the government free fruit initiative for children in year groups R, 1 and 2. Children in Magpies should bring their own fruit. [fruit only please]



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.

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. Last year, despite the inclement weather, the PTA hosted a highly successful Summer Fayre, enabling us to purchase some new very popular fixed play exercise equipment to be used at lunchtimes and playtimes. They also help us to provide specialist dance and music tuition throughout the year for all our pupils. 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.

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 15th, Sparrows and Robins: Tuesday 20th. All meetings will take place in the classrooms between 2.50pm-3.15pm. 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 29th September at 2.50pm in the Reception classroom.

School Nut Policy

Just a quick reminder regarding our school Nut Policy. We request that parents do not send food to school that contain nuts. This includes all types of nuts, peanut butter/paste, nutella and food containing nuts. Our hot meal providers also operate a no nut policy to the food they provide to our school. We have a child in school with a severe nut allergy so I would like to take this opportunity to remind the whole school community of the need to avoid nut products.

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, last year we introduced "reading with DERIC." The information below will be useful for our new parents and also provide a refresher for our existing parents, especially those who have moved up a Key Stage.

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)

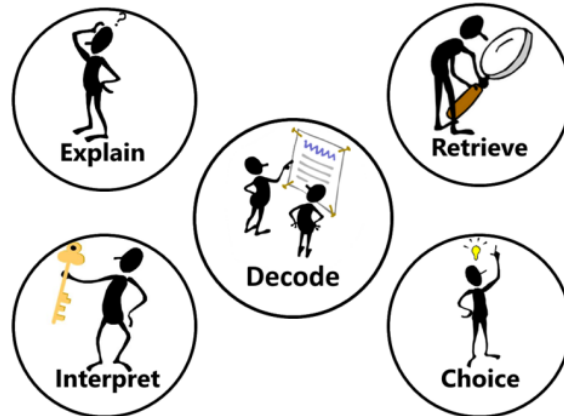
Explain (explaining unfamiliar words and developing vocabulary)

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 way of working for our Year 3 and 4 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. Children should come in PE kit on the days they have PE. [Friday for Robins, Wednesday for Sparrows and Wednesday and Friday for Magpies. 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. We appreciate that holiday industry increase costs significantly outside term times. As staff who work in a school, we are well aware of the financial implications! However, I would 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.

Baby News!

I am delighted to announce that Mr and Mrs Reece has safely welcomed the arrival of their new baby daughter, Sophia Rose Reece who came into the world on 19th August. We send them our very best wishes.

School visits

A number of visits are planned for this term for children in Sparrows and Magpies, that tie in with our Autumn term curriculum. You will have received separate letters and forms about these visits before the Summer break.

Keira Ainsworth Head Teacher, September 2nd 2022

