



The Federation of Bishop Sutton and Stanton Drew Primary Schools



Bishop Sutton Primary School
Wick Rd
Bishop Sutton BS39 5XD
Tel: 01275 332817
bsps@bishopsuttonstantondrew.co.uk

Stanton Drew Primary School
Upper Stanton
Stanton Drew BS39 4EQ
Tel: 01275 332820
sdps@bishopsuttonstantondrew.co.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to explain about our new reading expectations and hopes across the two schools from September 2021. We are continuing to place high importance on the teaching of reading using our phonics scheme 'Read Write Inc' which is taught until children are able to read fluently by years 2/3. The supporting Read Write Inc sound books and story/non-fiction books will be sent home (usually two at the beginning of the week) so that you can help them to practise their sounds and blending at the appropriate level. It is recommended that the children read the same book at least 3 times (in small chunks if preferred) in order to improve their phonics skills, fluency and understanding of the story or information. They will also bring home a book of their own choice for the week. This book will be for you to share with your children. This book will probably be too difficult for them to decode alone as the purpose is not to practise their sounds but to enjoy listening to a story and be able to ask questions and talk about their own experiences.

Reading for pleasure is an enormous part of our aim when providing children with books and teaching them to read. We are teaching children to read for life, not only for school.

"Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed – it's that simple."

Bali Rai

Our aim is for children to read with attention instead of quickly reading so that they can tick off a night in their diary. We want them to understand the impact and meaning of words, generate their own ideas and predictions, feel and empathise, care about the characters and notice and enjoy what they are reading. In school we will provide children with a wide variety of books, allowing children to reflect on the lives of others who may lead challenging or different lives to their own and also to see versions of themselves in books and be aware of the immense opportunities available to them as they grow older.

As children finish the Read Write Inc scheme, they will be taking home books with coloured stickers on and progressing through them as well as choosing library books and also choosing from 'Mrs Tucker recommends books'. We feel that it is important for children to experience a wide variety of books in order to expand understanding and vocabulary and also to find books that they will enjoy.

In order to encourage reading for pleasure, we will no longer be sending home reading diaries. Our expectation for children reading every day will still remain but with more of an emphasis on pleasure. There is a lot of research suggesting that rewarding reading with charts etc suggests that reading is a task that needs to be done for a bribe and can, in the long run, take away the motivation and love of reading. With that in mind, we are trialling using a bookmark with EYFS and KS1 children which will require an adult to tick that reading has taken place both with the child and to the child and KS2 will be completing reading logs in school. It is extremely beneficial for children of all ages to hear stories/information that is perhaps too difficult or time consuming for them to read independently. Even if it is once or twice a week, the impact is huge so please give it a try with older children if you don't already do this.

All children will also be doing a lot more talking about books and authors and classes every week and will have time to recommend books to the school in assemblies.

I hope that you understand our reasons for this change and will support us with encouraging all of our children to become life-long readers.

Many thanks,

Stephanie Tucker

Federation English Subject Leader