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Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Marvellous Maths Parent Workshop

I was really pleased to see the support that we received from our Year 1 parents this week who attended our 'Marvellous Maths' Workshop. These are designed to inform parents on how Maths is taught in school so that parents can support at home.

I'd like to say a thank you to Mrs Cork and Miss Andrews for hosting the first of these workshops. We have Year 6 next week and other year groups will follow later in the term. A copy of the presentation from the workshop will be placed on the [Supporting Learning at Home](#) pages of our school website.



### Owl Visit

A part of Year 2's learning, we are being visited by the Night Owl Company and they will also be doing an assembly for the whole school where they will be showing and flying different owls. After this, the children (if they want to) will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with a barn owl and these photos will be offered to the parents to purchase.

### PTFA Meeting

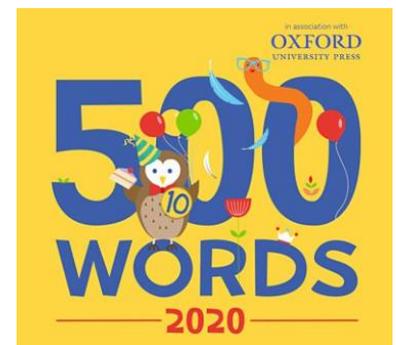
On Tuesday, the PTFA held an open meeting for all parents in the Red Lion and whilst turn-out wasn't as high as we'd hoped, I was grateful to those parents who did come along. At the meeting it was decided that the PTFA would be sending out termly newsletters and the first of these will be after February half-term.

Another piece of good news is that the PTFA raised more money than initially thought at the fireworks event as Bourne to Garden offered their services free of charge and the amount raised now stands at just over £7000. On behalf of the children of the school, I'd like to say a huge thank you to Colin North and his team.

### 500 Words Competition

This is a competition for all children between the ages of 5 and 13 and last year there were over 110,000 entries including a large number of children of Bridge & Patrixbourne School.

To enter, children have to write a short story of no more than 500 words and it can be about anything they like. More information can be found on the BBC Radio 2 website [here](#) and, if any children wish to share their stories with us, we'd love to publish them on our school website as well. Get writing!



### Accelerated Reader

From this week, we have launched a new programme at Bridge & Patricxbourne CEP School called Accelerated Reader. This is a system designed to develop children's independent reading and provides more structure and guidance to those children who are 'free reading'.

It works in a very simple way, children from Year 3 upwards have all taken a short reading test to determine their reading level and, after completing a book, the children then take a short 'quiz' in school to check their understanding and comprehension before choosing another book.

The vast majority of the books in our library have been labelled with a book level and one of the best parts about Accelerated Reader is that children can choose their own books to read rather than being given one. This will hopefully encourage children to read by making it a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are of interest to them.

Please note that Accelerated Reader assesses comprehension and vocabulary knowledge as well as decoding, i.e. pure reading and this means that children initially may be assigned a lower reading range than they expected. This usually self-corrects after a while and children are still free to borrow any book from the library – all children will have an 'AR book' and a 'library book'.

### How do you determine my child's reading level?

Children will take a computerised reading assessment known as a STAR test to determine their level. The test uses multiple-choice questions and adjusts to your child's responses – if an answer is correct, the next question increases in difficulty and vice versa. The whole test takes approximately 15 minutes. This test will give a recommended ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development), which indicates the level of book that your child should choose, (e.g. 3.1 – 4.5) which is then recorded in their Reading Record. This reading range guides the children into choosing books at an appropriate reading level so that they are challenging without being too frustrating.

### How does my child take a quiz?

Children have daily access to computers to enable them to take a quiz. It is important that they take their quiz as soon as possible after they have read their book, as this will give them the best chance of passing.

### How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or book shop on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading and discussing books that each of you has read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child is understanding what they read. Reading with your child, no matter what their age, is an important part of developing a good reader and building a lifelong love of reading and learning.

### My child is not a strong reader. Can he/she still use Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers from pupils with special needs to those who are gifted and talented. When children read books at their appropriate level, they experience success. Furthermore, teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's reading level.

**If you have any questions about Accelerated Reader, then please speak to your child's class teacher, Mrs Haynes our librarian or Miss Allison our Reading Leader.**

### Term Dates (2020-2021)

We know that parents like to have plenty of advanced notice of term dates and we have now set the terms dates for the next academic year. You'll notice that we've continued to keep the two days added to the October half-term as we appreciate that some families may take this opportunity to take a short holiday. We have also added two days to the May half-term break for the same reason.

All term dates can be found on the [Term Dates](#) page of our school website.

- **Term 1:** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct
- **Term 2:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec
- **Term 3:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb
- **Term 4:** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April
- **Term 5:** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May
- **Term 6:** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July

### Holiday Club

This is now being arranged for February half-term, please speak to Jess in the school office if you would like to book a space.

Don't forget that this newsletter and all previous newsletters can also be found on the [Headteacher Newsletter](#) section of our school website.

With best wishes



## Latest Blog Posts

[READ ALL BLOGS >](#)

27<sup>th</sup> January 2020



### Animal Antics

This morning Year One welcomed Lauren, from Zoolab, with some of her friends. We met a giant African land snail, a corn snake, a rat, a white tree frog and a scorpion.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

29<sup>th</sup> January 2020



### Infant Agility

20 pupils (2 teams) from Year 2 took part in the Infant Agility competition on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January. Out of 19 schools and 195 children, they achieved 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place which is a tremendous achievement. Well done, everyone!

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

29<sup>th</sup> January 2020



### Dodgeball

We have a number of talented triathletes in our school. Read about their awards evening.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

30<sup>th</sup> January 2020



### Football Match – Boys 'A' Team

"On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January Bridge A Team played in a football match against Chartham. It was an eventful game with lots of rain that saw us losing at half time.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

## Upcoming Events

All dates and events can be found on our new school calendar.

[CALENDAR >](#)

You are also able to 'subscribe' to the calendar (there is a link underneath the calendar) which means that you can have the school calendar on your phone or tablet and any updates will automatically appear on your device!

<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	Year 5 Bikeability Groups 1 & 2		
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 5 Bikeability Groups 3 & 4	Able Writers Workshop at Hoath School (Year 3 and 4)	Owl Visit (Whole School)
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 5 Bikeability Group 5		
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>		2.15pm Marvellous Maths Parent Workshop (Year 6)	
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>			
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	2GD Trip to Wildwood		
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	2RF Trip to Wildwood		
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>			
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 6 Trip to see School of Rock in London		
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>			Messy Church on Saturday
Half-Term Holiday			
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Science Week (all week)</i>		
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Rocks Workshop for 3SA		
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Rocks Workshop for 3HA		
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>			
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>			
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Secondary Admissions: National Offer Day	Japanese Students Visiting	
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>			
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>			
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	World Book Day	Cross Country Competition	
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>			