

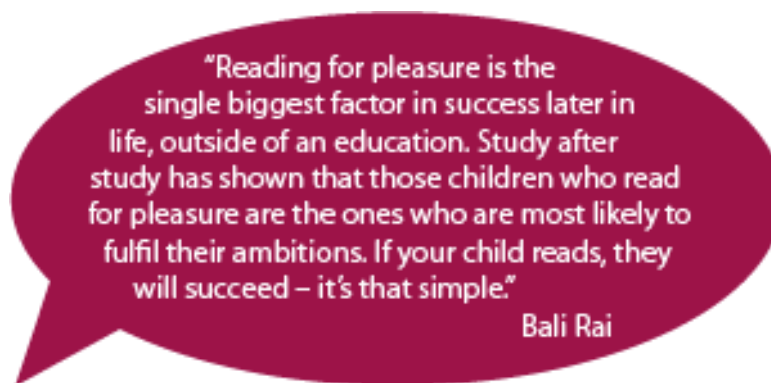


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12th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

After two periods of home learning, Reading and Phonics are a key part of our recovery plan to get children back up to expected standards as quickly as possible. Reading is the gateway to enabling children to fully access and benefit from other curriculum subjects, and ultimately to maximise their potential in life. At Biggin Hill, we are approaching this in two ways. The first is to ensure we provide excellent teaching in the mechanics of reading through phonics and early language teaching. Secondly, to promote a love of reading with long-lasting benefits.



Reading at Home

It is really important that every child reads at home. The children who make the most progress from their starting point are the children who read to an adult regularly. Ideally, there should be a balance of reading to an adult at least 3 times a week (preferably their school reading book) and sharing a book of their choice with an adult at other times. If you would like support with this then please speak to your child's class teacher. There is a genre, author or book out there for every child. We can help with ideas to motivate your child or suggest books they might like to read.

Book Fair

Thank you to all the parents who bought books at our Book Fair last term. We sold over £1000 worth of books which was fantastic and meant we earnt lots of vouchers to spend on books for the school. We have spent our vouchers on a class set of thesauruses for KS2 and a vast selection of modern fiction for our class libraries.



Reading Books

Over the last few years, we have spent a considerable amount of money on updating the reading books we send home with the children. As phonics books are a speciality, they cost on average £5-6 each. Unfortunately, a number of our reading books have not been returned and we are particularly low on pink and red level books. We would be very grateful if you could look at home for any extra school reading books and return them as soon as possible. From now on we will be asking for a voluntary contribution to help pay for lost reading books.

Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to spend an afternoon helping to sort out library books. We have a high volume of books but we really want our children to read only the highest quality fiction. There are a number of projects we plan to start this year, such as setting up a small library on each playground and starting a book swap. We need volunteers to filter out the best books and identify books for these two projects. If you are able to help on Wednesday 19th January from 1:45-3:15 then please email h.lucas@bigginhillps.com. If you are able to volunteer a few hours at another time then please let us know. We would appreciate your help and will provide you with tea and biscuits to help you along the way. Volunteers would need to wear a mask in school unless exempt and, as visiting school, take a lateral flow test and only attend if you have a negative result.

Book swap

We will be starting a book swap scheme for KS2 pupils on **Wednesday 26th January**. Pupils are invited to bring in a book from home they have really enjoyed reading and swap it for a different book to read. Every Wednesday lunchtime pupils will be able to swap their book for another one. The book swap will be held in the playground outside the PPA room.

Take a book home

This term we will also be starting our 'borrow a book' scheme. As mentioned at the start of the letter, we have bought lots of new and exciting books for KS2 pupils to read. Specific pupils will be given a new book in one of our borrowing bags with a sachet of hot chocolate and invited to read and share it at home with their family.

Thank you for your continued support, whether it be as a reading volunteer, buying books at the book fair or simply hearing your child read regularly.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Lucas

Helen Lucas
Year 1 Teacher and Literacy Lead

