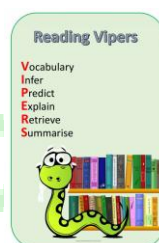


9th October 2026

Dear Parents

At Bushmead we believe that reading is one of the most important skills the children have to acquire. From the beginning, we encourage parents to become fully involved in helping their child to learn to read. The teaching of reading is focused on the Little Wandle phonics scheme and the associated levelled books. It is also supported by a wide range of other reading material both factual and fictional and we are fortunate to have a newly updated and well-stocked selection of books in the library that the children can visit regularly. Once the children have mastered phonics, they will have daily reading sessions known in school as VIPERS. Children will learn to apply these skills to improve their comprehension and understanding of the books and texts they read.



The children will bring home a book every day and parents are expected to share this book with their child. Children who are completing Little Wandle sessions will bring home two books: one that is fully decodable that they have been reading in class, and a reading for pleasure book that they have chosen themselves. This reading for pleasure book is a book for you to read to your child. The children will also have a Bushmead reading diary that informs parents and teachers on the individual's progress. Anyone listening to the child read will record a comment in the diary. Teachers also keep detailed records of reading groups and progress is closely monitored.

It is a Bushmead expectation that every child will read **every weekday night**, therefore from the start of the Autumn term, we will be monitoring their reading and spelling diaries daily. In Lower phase, these reading diaries will be checked every Friday and the children who have not read, will be supported with opportunities for additional shared stories together or reading practice. The children from year 2 onwards will be expected to place these on their desk first thing in the morning to be checked. If the child has not read at home, they will spend some of their break time reading with an adult. This is to ensure that all children are reaching their full potential in their reading and are listened to by an adult every day.

Bushmead Primary School

Bushmead Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots. PE19 8BT

Web: www.bushmead.cambs.sch.uk Tel: 01480 375375

Head Teacher: Mr Steve Down

Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Emma Perry

Assistant Headteacher: Miss Emma Ritchie

Top tips for helping your child read:

There is a huge amount of information available on the Little Wandle Website to support your child with their reading journey!

[For parents | Letters and Sounds](#)

[Top tips for reading with your child - BBC Bitesize](#)

Payment for non-returned books.

As a school, we have spent a vast amount of money upgrading our reading materials and purchasing enough Little Wandle books as well as the top 100 "must read" books for all age groups. This is so your child can come home with a physical book rather than an e-book and have a more up-to-date range of books to choose from. It is imperative that these books are looked after and returned to school with your child. The loss of books not only impacts your own child, but children in younger cohorts as there will be less books for them to access. If you do not return your book, or the book is returned damaged there will be charge £2.50 to your parent pay account.

Happy reading!

Yours sincerely

Kind regards

Miss Buck and Mrs Row

Bushmead
Primary School



High Expectations

High Achievements

Rich and Varied Curriculum