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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of week 3, we reflect on the great start to this term. This week, Joseph auditions took place for all children who wanted to take part. Roles will be given out next week and rehearsals will start at the end of term. We are all very excited about this upcoming production. It is definitely a staff favourite!

It was fantastic to see how many parents were able to attend the recent phonics workshops for Wrens and Jays last week. If you would like any information on how we teach children to read, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher.

Reading at Home

Supporting your child to read at home is **the** most important thing you can do to help your child's progress in school. If a child struggles to read, they are not able to access all aspects of the curriculum so we work hard to ensure children make good progress. We provide excellent support to those pupils who have difficulty in reading and interventions take place for all pupils who are below the expected standard, however, parents who regularly listen to their child read make a huge difference. We have seen a drop in the number of children being regularly listened to at home in recent years. It would be fantastic if more of you could listen to your child read at home as this accelerates progress for all abilities. Reading together gives you the opportunity to support their fluency and discuss the story. Asking questions about the plot, characters, and events helps children to develop their ability to think critically and express their ideas.

Reading to your children at home for pleasure is also crucial as it helps them learn about the world around them. Through reading, children are able to explore new places, people and ideas. It also allows them to build their vocabulary and learn new words. Children learn to pay attention for long periods when they are read to which is another essential skill. Please try to set aside some time every day if possible, to listen to your child read and share a story. Another suggestion to improve reading skills is to have subtitles on when watching television.

Our Calculations Policy

We have recently updated our Calculations Policy which can be viewed on our website here:

<https://barham.kent.sch.uk/assets/documents/policies/Barham-C-of-E-Primary-School--Calculation-and-Manipulatives-Policy-2024.pdf>

This document lays out the progression and methods we use in school for calculations from reception to Year 6. The policy will help you to understand the methods we use at our school and support you when helping your child with Maths homework. If you would like further information, please speak to your child's teacher.



We will be organising both a reading and Maths workshop in the near future.

Staff News

A reminder that Miss Kelly will meet Y6 parents in the classroom at 3:00pm on Monday (January 27th) to introduce herself and go through the term. For those of you who cannot attend, Miss Kelly will send out the PowerPoint slides via Seesaw.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Harding today who supports children in reception. She is sorry to be leaving but has been offered a role in her children's school. We wish her all the very best. A second round of interviews will take place in a couple of weeks.

Finally, stay warm and have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signatures of Alison Higgins and Jo Duhig in blue ink.

Alison Higgins
Co-headteacher

Jo Duhig
Co-headteacher