

18th October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

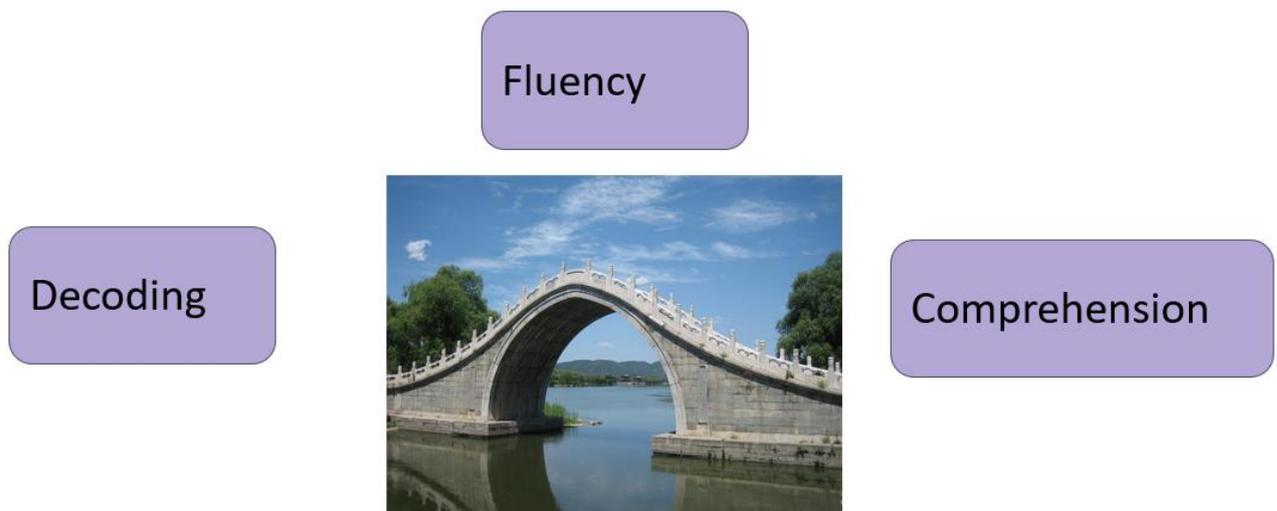
A slightly delayed welcome to the new academic year. Over the summer we changed information management systems as part of the move to Baylis Court Trust which has required a large amount of work and time to set up. I am pleased to say that we now have the ability to email again and I can return to sending regular newsletters to our families.

You will have hopefully noticed we have a new and improved website which we will be adding regular updates to: www.battleprimary.co.uk . As before, we will also be keeping parents informed via social media and I encourage all new parents to follow us @Battle Primary and on Facebook.

I hope you are also aware of our new afterschool club No.97 which opened in September and is proving popular with families. Spaces are still available and if you are interested in affordable and quality after school care then please come and see what we have to offer in our dedicated space.

This point of the year is traditionally one of the busiest times and this year has been no exception. It is also one of the most exciting. We have clear plans and priorities that we are ambitious to achieve and that will represent further progress. Much of this centres on improving the way we teach reading. Reading is an essential skill and is at the heart of an excellent education.

A useful model is to think of reading like a bridge:



We begin with **Decoding**. This is where children learn the sounds and symbols associated with alphabetic code. They learn that marks on a page carry meaning and can be used to communicate. A strong focus on phonics is the grounding emerging readers need at this point.



Fluency is about building reading stamina and speed. Learning to read with expression and ensure children understand different aspects of punctuation and grammar. This is a phase parents are often most helpful with as listening to your child read out loud is an essential part of daily practice that builds confidence and speed.

Comprehension develops from the previous two phases and requires lots of practice and exposure to language in different contexts. Words are amazing and one word can have many different meanings depending on how it is used. Therefore reading widely and for different purposes is a priority. In primary school this is something we see develop particularly through Key Stage. Learning to retrieve information and infer meaning are sophisticated skills and require explicit teaching and exposure to increasingly challenging texts.

Reading is perhaps the most important skill your child will learn. It is needed in every aspect of life and required to develop the knowledge, language, vocabulary and thinking skills essential to adulthood.

As described, parents can be key partners in this journey. I would like to start the new academic year by reminding parents just how important that little bit of time you spend each day supporting and encouraging your child to read through every year at school makes a positive difference. Is there anything more important than that? I know that this was a hot topic at Parents' Evening this week and will continue to be a running theme through this academic year.

Thank you for your anticipated support. Together I have every confidence this is a challenge we will rise to.

Yours sincerely

Nathan Butler-Broad

Headteacher



Reminders

Please book your child's lunch on Parentpay or send them in with a packed lunch.

As the weather is wet please make sure your child wears appropriate footwear and has a coat with them every day.

If you haven't booked parents evening please do so following the text link that you will have received this week.

Diary events

7/11/19 2020 Reception new parents open morning
13/11/19 2020 Reception new parents open morning
13/11/19 Tag rugby 9.00- 12.30 @ Wilson
14/11/19 School photos
15/11/19 Girls football 8.50-12.00 @ Madjeski
15/11/19 Children in Need
18/11/19 Glee show @ Hexagon 1
20/11/19 Boccia 9.30 – 12.00 @ JMA
20/11/19 Flu immunisation
25/11/19 Mixed hockey @ Highdown 3.30-5.20
28/11/19 Y5 workshop Reading Rep group 9.45-12.00
6/12/19 Indoor athletics 11.30-3.20 Y3/4
6/12/19 Christmas Fayre 4.00
10/12/19 Christmas church service
11/12/19 Christmas Lunch Day
12/12/19 Streetdance Christmas show to parents
12/12/19 R E Day
13/12/19 Panto