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Re: Key Stage Two Reading Scheme, September 2024

Friday 28th June 2024

Dear Parents / Guardians

In time for the new academic year, 2024-25, we are establishing a new reading scheme for children in Key Stage Two (years 3-6), which will replace "free readers".

This is in order to ensure all our children receive a rich diet of reading opportunities, reading a wide variety of genres and styles. We will be following the "Plagues of Reading" initiative, as can be found here:

<https://teachlikeachampion.org/wp-content/uploads/5-Plagues-Reading-Spine.pdf>

The spine contains five genres:

- Archaic texts – these tend to be older texts, in which vocabulary and sentences structures are different to those, typical of modern writing, e.g. The Railway Children, or The Secret Garden.
- Non-linear time sequences – these texts do not necessarily follow a chronological order, they may have flashbacks, or may move forward irregular time sequences, e.g. The Butterfly Lion, or Holes.
- Narratively complex – these texts have narrators that do not necessarily follow convention, or are not who/what you might expect, e.g., Fantastic Mr Fox, or War Horse.
- Symbolic texts or complex plots – these texts may have a theme, a moral, or a lesson threaded through the writing, e.g. The Iron Man, or Harry Potter
- Resistant texts – these are designed to be particularly difficult to understand and require lots of work to unpick meaning, e.g. The Red Tree, or Jabberwocky (poem).

Each year group from Y3-6 will have a list of books, divided into the 5 different genres. Children will be able to choose a text from their respective list, and once they have finished, choose a new book but from a different genre.

Much like the schemes children follow in earlier year groups, children will receive a new reading-tracking document, so their progress can be monitored. Therefore, once children have completed the Oxford Reading Scheme, they will transfer to this scheme. Children may still have a "free reader" – as in the past – that they read alongside, and they will still be allotted a library session in which they can visit the school library and read for pleasure.

Please watch this space for more information.

Kind regards

Mr Haughton and the Literacy Team

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*The Bowerham School community is proud to nurture aspiration,
inspire love for life-long learning and prepare children for a changing
Society.*