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Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading is a crucial part of the curriculum and your child's continuing progress in reading is essential to help them to become a successful learner. Every child at Burlington has a daily reading lesson, as well as cross-curricular opportunities for reading throughout the day. Children also read to adults in school and many of them take part in reading interventions such as Read Write Inc., PIXL and Lexia to develop their fluency in reading.

Support from families is an essential part of developing a child as a reader. Every child has a school reading book, which should be brought home every day and returned to school each morning, along with their reading record. Please write in the reading record when you have heard your child read, with any comments you wish to make.

Did you know that if you can't read 5% of words in a text, the meaning becomes lost? This is why it is so important to read with your child to help them overcome unfamiliar or tricky words, so that they understand what they are reading. Reading to and with your child every evening for at least ten minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school. A report from the Oxford University Press highlighted the importance of parents reading with their children: 'Children who read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age'.

So why is reading so important?

- The ability to browse for information helps children to learn and to find facts. Children who read widely are curious, interested and ask questions. Reading encourages them to think about "if" and "why?"
- Reading different kinds of books about different people and situations helps children to make sense of the world we live in and to think about why or how others think and behave the way they do. Sometimes reading about people facing up to problems or strong feelings can help children find ways of coping with their own emotions.
- Reading is the perfect way to develop vocabulary and to become aware of how language can be used to communicate. Being a reader will improve your child's spelling and writing and will provide a solid foundation for learning across the curriculum.

We will be celebrating World Book Day on 1st March with our annual Book-in-a-Box competition; details will be in this week's newsletter and will be sent home with each child.

Please find attached a list of tips for helping your child with their reading. We hope you will support us in this very important aspect of your child's education.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K M Swift

English Subject Leader

Top Tips to help your child's reading:

Children should be reading for about fifteen minutes every evening. Regular reading at home will support all areas of learning at school. Try to have a variety of books, magazines and comics available for your children to browse – these can be also obtained from a library. E-books on tablets, Kindles or smartphones are equally useful and classic fiction is often free to download.

· Encourage your child to make predictions about the book

· Help them to work out or find out the meaning of unknown words

· Discuss moods and feelings of characters and find evidence to support ideas

· Make comparisons with similar books or films

· Model reading aloud with expression and get your child to copy you

· Ask your child to summarise the main points from a chapter or whole book

· In non-fiction, how do the layout or illustrations help the reader's understanding?

· Which words or phrases are interesting and why?

· Think of questions you would like to ask to develop understanding of the story

If you would like further advice about choosing books to read at home or on supporting your child's reading sills, please contact your child's teacher.