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**Shine as Lights in the World**  
**Philippians 2.15**

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January 24<sup>th</sup> 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Talk from Burford Headteacher on children’s use of mobile phones**

Thank you to all the parents who joined Mr Albrighton, headteacher of Burford School, this morning to discuss the use of mobile phones by children and young people. A letter has been sent to the families of children in Year 5 and 6 from Burford School, with a link to a survey to provide your own views on mobile phone use in secondary schools. Please do take the time to read this letter and complete the survey so your voice is heard.

**Parking and Walk to School Challenge (WOW)**

The business owners at the Wychwood Business Park have asked me to remind you that their carpark is private and for the use of people who are using their businesses. If you’re struggling to find somewhere to park, why not use one of the village hall carparks and then walk? We call this using the Park and Stride!

Parents of children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 (Key Stage 2) have now begun our Walk to School Challenge. The children in Key Stage 2 attended a special assembly last week held by the school’s Eco Council to tell them all about it and there is much excitement about the potential to earn badges throughout the year while also reaping the many benefits of having more active journeys. We hope you will take part in this pilot. If it is successful, we plan to roll it out to the rest of the school.

**Homework**

Two weeks ago, I shared with you our new homework policy and I thought it might be helpful to share the expectations for each year group again here:

Phase	Reading	Writing	Maths	Notes
FSU Reception	Reading with an adult daily for 10 minutes – banded book	Handwriting booklets are available for children to practice their letter formation –	NumBots for 10 minutes – at least 3x week – this is not compulsory.	



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	<p>We also encourage reading to your child daily in addition to hearing them read.</p> <p>Parents can send messages or voice notes on SeeSaw when they have heard their child read, but this is not compulsory.</p>	<p>this is not compulsory.</p>	<p>This program is designed to build fluency with counting and key instant recall facts.</p> <p>Children who have played three times or more in a week will receive a house point.</p>	
<p><b>Key Stage 1</b> Year 1 and 2</p>	<p>Reading with an adult daily for 10 minutes – banded book</p> <p>We also encourage reading to your child daily in addition to hearing them read.</p> <p>Parents can send messages or voice notes on SeeSaw when they have heard their child read, but this is not compulsory.</p>	<p>Regular practice of statutory spelling list words and of words containing the spelling pattern taught each week (using the spelling logbook) – 3x week.</p> <p>Parents should sign each page of the logbook to confirm that their child has engaged with the spelling practice for that week.</p>	<p>NumBots for 10 minutes – at least 3x week</p> <p>This program is designed to build fluency with counting and key instant recall facts.</p> <p>Children who have played three times or more in a week will receive a house point.</p> <p>The class teacher will contact parents of any children who regularly fail to play for three times a week to find out how we</p>	<p>Your teacher may provide additional tasks to engage with at home to support work in areas such as phonics or handwriting as appropriate.</p>

			can support the family to achieve this.	
<p><b>Lower Key Stage 2</b> Year 3 and 4</p>	<p>Reading with an adult daily for 10 minutes – banded book or book of your child’s choice if a free reader</p> <p>We also encourage reading to your child daily in addition to hearing them read.</p> <p>There is no requirement to record these reading sessions, but if you are finding it difficult to manage, please contact your child’s teacher who will be happy to help.</p>	<p>Regular practice of statutory spelling list words and of words containing the spelling pattern taught each week (using the spelling logbook) – 3x week</p> <p>Parents should sign each page of the logbook to confirm that their child has engaged with the spelling practice for that week.</p>	<p>NumBots and/or Times Table Rockstars – at least 3x week</p> <p>These programs are designed to build fluency with counting and key instant recall facts such as times tables.</p> <p>The class teacher will contact parents of any children who regularly fail to play for three times a week to find out how we can support the family to achieve this.</p>	<p>Your teacher may provide additional tasks to engage with at home to support work in areas such as phonics or handwriting as appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Upper Key Stage 2</b> Year 5 and 6</p>	<p>Children are expected to read 15 minutes of their reading book each night; if children do not manage it one night, they should read extra pages on other nights.</p>	<p>Regular practice of statutory spelling list words and of words containing the spelling pattern taught each week (using the spelling logbook) – 3x week</p>	<p>Times Table Rockstars – at least 3x week</p> <p>This program is designed to build fluency with times tables facts and it is important that this is kept up, even when your child is</p>	<p>Additional homework will be set for children in Year 6 in order to build good home learning habits ready for secondary school. These tasks will be communicated to both parents and children</p>

	<p>Children should read aloud to an adult during the week where possible to support their development of reading fluency and expression.</p> <p>As in earlier year groups, having stories read aloud to them should continue, further developing tone, intonation and expression as the text becomes more complex.</p>	<p>Parents should sign each page of the logbook to confirm that their child has engaged with the spelling practice for that week.</p>	<p>confident in recalling them.</p> <p>The class teacher will contact parents of any children who regularly fail to play for three times a week to find out how we can support the family to achieve this.</p>	<p>by teachers and children will receive feedback on their work.</p>
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### **Children’s Mental Health Day**

Children’s mental health week takes place from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The theme is ‘Know Yourself, Grow Yourself’ in partnership with *Here4You* and the *Inside Out 2* characters. On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February we are going to have a Children’s Mental Health Day where we are inviting children to come to school in non-uniform. If they would like to, they could dress in a colour based on one of the *Inside Out 2* characters.

We are fundraising for Place2Be which is a children’s mental health charity who provide mental health support in schools. Rather than bringing cash into school, a payment item will be available next week for you to make a donation via Parent Pay.



Alternatively, we will be displaying posters during children’s mental health week with a QR code that allows you to donate directly to Place2Be.

### **Calling budding ornithologists!**

You may be interested that the RSPB Garden Birdwatch is taking place this weekend. Fun, free and for everyone, taking part means you will spend an hour counting birds in your garden or local park. The RSPB then use this information to help understand how UK birds are doing. To find out more, click on the link below:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

We would love to hear about what you see!

### **Dates for the Autumn Term**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Who</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> January	U11s Sports hall Athletics	Selected Year 5 & 6
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Jungle Jonathan Visit	Year 1 & 2
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Cross Country Finals	Year 3 and 4 winning team from 1 <sup>st</sup> round
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Pyjama Party – 5 – 6.30pm	Reception
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 Ball Skills	Year 3
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Children’s Mental Health Day – non-school uniform	All
12 <sup>th</sup> February	U11s Tag Rugby Tournament	Selected Year 5 & 6
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Kilvrough Information Evening, 5.30pm	Parents of Year 6
17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Half Term Holiday	All
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Kilvrough Residential	Year 6
10 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Bikeability Course	Year 5
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Hill End Visit	Year 5
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Year 4 Languages Day (Burford School)	Year 4
30 <sup>th</sup> April – 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Bushcraft Residential	Year 4

Thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Katy Gent  
Headteacher  
Wychwood CE Primary School