

Burfield Academy  
Oaklands Way  
Hailsham  
East Sussex  
BN27 3NW

Tel: 01323 819309

Email: [office@burfieldacademy.org](mailto:office@burfieldacademy.org)  
Website: [www.burfieldacademy.org](http://www.burfieldacademy.org)

Executive Head Teacher: Jeremy Meek  
Head of School: Dee Hughes

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018

Dear parents and carers,

As part of our approach to teaching and learning within the wider curriculum, this afternoon children from Reception to year 3, will be bringing home a **Knowledge Organiser**.

### **What is a Knowledge Organiser?**

A **Knowledge Organiser** contains the factual information that is essential for your child to know to master a deep understanding of the key text they will be reading and analysing in class over the coming weeks.

To ensure every child is able to fully master the text the expectation is that all children will develop a knowledge of all of the facts on their **Knowledge Organiser** over the term and will be able to recall them instantly by the completion of the text's study.

It is presented in a grid format for two reasons. Firstly, it allows the information to be clearly grouped and arranged. Secondly, it allows children to cover specific sections to develop their recall of the information through retrieval practice.

### **What is the rationale for my child developing this knowledge?**

In daily reading lessons your child will be reading a key text and analysing its meaning and key themes. These classic texts are selected for their richness and challenge. All of these texts require some contextual knowledge to master their understanding.

For example, children reading the Prologue from The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer, will need to know what a pilgrimage is and why Chaucer wrote these stories so long ago; children reading Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens will need to have an understanding of the role of women in Victorian society to fully understand the character of Nancy and children reading Macbeth by William Shakespeare will need an understanding of the social hierarchies of Scotland in the 11<sup>th</sup> century to fully understand the protagonists motivations and dilemma.

### **How is this knowledge organiser linked to the curriculum?**

In Nursery, Reception and Y1 these texts will be explored during the afternoon wider curriculum sessions. In years 2 and 3, your child will engage in a 40 minute daily reading lesson of the key text the **Knowledge Organiser** supports.

Burfield Academy  
Oaklands Way  
Hailsham  
East Sussex  
BN27 3NW

Tel: 01323 819309

Email: [office@burfieldacademy.org](mailto:office@burfieldacademy.org)  
Website: [www.burfieldacademy.org](http://www.burfieldacademy.org)

Executive Head Teacher: Jeremy Meek  
Head of School: Dee Hughes

Most importantly, they will also take part in two further lessons each week (which we call Text and Context lessons) which directly relate to developing a rich understanding of the knowledge found in their organiser. They will be taught about different aspects of the **Knowledge Organiser** content when it is relevant to their reading (in other words, just before they encounter it) so please don't expect your child to have had lessons about everything included on the **Knowledge Organiser** by the end of the first week! The **Knowledge Organiser** itself will also be used in these lessons for children and teachers to refer to.

#### Is it homework?

Your child will receive their normal weekly homework. The **Knowledge Organiser** is not part of this provision. However, we would encourage you to spend some time discussing the information in the **Knowledge Organiser** with your child at home throughout the term. You can do this with them by writing the facts and headings out on cards and matching them or creating posters to put up at home to act as a memory aid. Over the coming weeks, teachers will use the **Knowledge Organisers** in class in many ways and your child may bring home additional activities to support them in remembering the information.

Should you have any questions relating to the **Knowledge Organiser**, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Kind regards



Mrs D Hughes  
Head of School