

Dear Parents,

With the summer holidays fast approaching and the boys' thoughts beginning to turn to long balmy days in the sunshine or on the beach, schoolwork may be the last thing they want to think about! However, this holiday is eight weeks long. We know that many boys will luxuriate in weeks of reading, whereas others will find other, seemingly more attractive pursuits. Without wishing to be a scaremonger, the research is clear that children who do not read during the summer can lose up to three months of reading progress and that loss has a cumulative, long-term effect.

To that end, I would like to draw your attention to a few opportunities. Firstly, if your son needs an idea of what to read, Mrs Lumley Wood has an extensive list for each year group that can be found here:

<https://bedfordschool.fireflycloud.net/pslibrary/reading-lists>

The Accelerated Reading scheme has been a huge success this academic year, with 70 boys becoming reading millionaires; between them the boys have managed to read over 8,000 books. This is an amazing achievement and we hope to do even better next year. The boys are not able to take quizzes over the summer, but we would recommend they still read books within their most recent reading zone.

Finally, we would also like to promote an extreme reading competition for the Prep School and we challenge the boys to read a book somewhere unusual (but make sure it is safe!) The location of the picture could be connected to the book itself. For example, boys could be snapped reading *Harry Potter* on the platform at Kings Cross Station or *The London Eye Mystery* under the shadow of the London Eye itself. Let the imagination run wild! There will be prizes for each year group and pictures should be emailed to Mrs Lumley Wood:

[alumley-wood@bedfordschool.org.uk](mailto:alumley-wood@bedfordschool.org.uk)

Happy summer, and happy reading!

Best wishes

Dominic Affleck

Head of English

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