

Dear Parents and Guardians

We all know how important reading is to develop the mind and language skills, developing children's attainment, not only in literacy but across all curriculum subjects. So encouraging children to have a really good time reading and talking about books is a simple but effective tool which we positively encourage. Reading is something we regard very highly in Prep School and to this effect, ensure that the children are reading on a daily basis.

With technology consistently inspiring children we have noticed more and more Kindles appearing in School. Whilst I personally believe there is nothing more rewarding than turning the pages of a good book, we also appreciate how times have changed and how children enjoy this way of devouring literature. It is for this reason that we will allow children to bring their Kindle Paperwhite into School to further encourage this love of reading should they wish to do so; a Kindle Fire however, will not be permitted in School as children can access the Internet, and games on these devices.

Additionally, please can I remind parents that mobile phones are not permitted in School. The only exception to this ruling is when it has been agreed that a child is on the bus to and from School, and you as the parent feels that they should have one for contact in an emergency. Their phones must be switched off as soon as the bus arrives and not turned on again until they get back on the bus. We do operate a **no mobile phone** policy at Prep School.

Please note that in addition to this, although we encourage children to wear watches to School, please do not allow your child to wear a 'smart' watch, or any watch that has the same functionality as a mobile phone or PC, on the School site. These are expensive items and we would not want them to be damaged in any way.

The School accepts no liability for loss or damage of phones or Kindles while on School premises.

With best wishes



Mrs Laura Turner, Headmistress of Barnard Castle Preparatory School