



12th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Home Reading – Key Stage Two

We have had a change to our home reading systems in order to give the children more reading opportunities at home.

If your child is on book bands:

We now class our children as being on a book band until they are fully confident on grey books.

Book band
Lilac
Pink
Red
Yellow
Light Blue
Green
Orange
Turquoise
Purple
Gold
White
Lime
Brown
Grey

Once your child is fully confident on grey books, they will be classed as a Free Reader.

Some schools (as we have done previously) use book bands past this point. These colours are Dark Blue, Dark Red and Black. We still have books in school that are book banded at these levels, but I just wanted to clarify if your child is a Free Reader and did bring one of these books home, it would not mean they were on that book band.



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Children on Book Bands:

Your child will be coming home with three books every week and I wanted to take this opportunity to explain this in a bit more detail.

If your child is accessing our phonics scheme, there will be:

- A book which is linked to the sound(s) your child is learning in phonics
- A book band book. The book band book is matched to your child's stage in their learning and grasp of phonics, with a focus on their ability to decode.
- A Reading for Pleasure Book

If your child is on a book band of White or below and not accessing our phonics scheme, there will be:

- Two book band books
- A Reading for Pleasure Book

If your child is on a book band of Lime or above, there will be:

- One book band book
- A Reading for Pleasure Book

(The movement here to one book band book is due to the length of the books and we want the child to have opportunities in the week still to engage with the Reading for Pleasure books. If you would like more than one book band book, please speak to your child's class teacher).

Children on book bands will also have a Reading Record which will have the two/three books noted in there. We expect you to sign the record each time you read with your child so the teacher knows that you are listening to your child read daily and you are sharing the Reading for Pleasure book. It is fine to sign for more than one day within each an individual box to use the pages more cost effectively. You are more than welcome to write more information, but this is not expected.

We have carefully selected the Reading for Pleasure books that will be sent home and hope you enjoy them together. There will be a sticker on this book which notes it is a Reading for



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Pleasure book and your child is not expected to be able to read this book. The purpose of this book is for you to read it to your child over the week with a focus on enjoying the book together.

At present, as we move to our new systems and our new phonics scheme, we are trying to ensure we have enough of each type of book. It may be to start with your child comes home with one less book band book than noted above, just until we get our systems fully in place. It is also worth noting that sometimes one of your child's books may be an e-book.

Children who are Free Readers

If your child is a Free Reader, there will be:

- A Free Reader Book (which are the same as the Reading for Pleasure books noted above).

We have carefully selected the Free Readers/Reading for Pleasure books that will be sent home. There are 40 of these books (and your child will also have access to general class libraries in addition to this). There will be a sticker on the 40 books which notes they are a Reading for Pleasure book - for your child, this means it is one of the selected books we want your child to read over the year.

Free Readers do not have a Reading Record.

Reading Journals

All children in Key Stage Two have a Reading Journal (a5 plain paged book). When your child has either shared a Reading for Pleasure book with yourself (children on a book band) or read one of the 40 Free Read/Reading for Pleasure books to themselves (children who are Free Readers), we would like them to express their thoughts however they would like to in these books. This could be words or art work – the more creative the better! More information and inspiration will follow in the coming weeks on this.



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There will be lots of support being sent out by our school about reading this year, but I hope for now this will make it clear on what to expect for home reading books over the coming weeks.

For all books that are sent home with your child, we expect they come back into school. We will have to charge parents/carers for the cost of the book if it is lost or badly damaged. School has made a huge financial investment in ensuring we are able to give our children a wide range of home reading opportunities so your understanding on this would be hugely appreciated.

Kind regards,

Deborah Howard
Headteacher



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