



Reading Guidance

A Guide for Parents

April 2016

This booklet has been designed in order to help you and your child enjoy reading at home. It aims to provide you with clear information about learning to read and how you can help your child make progress.



Reading books

What reading book should my child be bringing home?

Each child will bring home a home reader book (book band) and a school library book. The home reader books are colour coded to match the National book banding system and the phonics Read Write Inc. programme. If your child is a free reader they will only bring home a library book. The class teacher will write in your child's planner the colour band they are reading. Please check your child is bringing home the correct book band.

What do Book Band levels mean?

Reading books are graded by difficulty by reading levels known as Book Bands. Each Book Band has its own colour. The chart below gives an indication of the range of Book Band levels at which most children will be reading as they progress through primary school.

Children tend to learn in fits and starts – periods of growth followed by periods of consolidation when their progress seems to halt for a while. The periods where you don't see rapid progress may be worrying, especially after a 'growth spurt', but they are important as your child develops confidence in using and applying their newly acquired skills. If you are ever worried about your child's progress, talk to their teacher.

A copy of the book band chart can be seen at the back of this booklet.

Reading at home

DO

- Keep reading time relaxed, comfortable and fun.
- Find a quiet place, with the television turned off.
- Make it a special time together.
- Establish a routine in the day and read for 10-20 minutes
- Reward any reading with small treats e.g stickers
- Talk about books, covers, stories, any written words around the house.
- Encourage use of 'Fred talk' to work out unfamiliar words
- Join your local library together and use it regularly.
- Use the questions in your child's planner to probe and check for understanding.

DON'T

- Don't correct too often or too quickly
- Make reading negative and pressured
- Ignore requests to read any written words
- Get worried or frustrated with slow progress
- Let young children deface or mistreat books.

Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics programme

RWI is a successful Reading programme that enables every child to become a confident and fluent reader at the first attempt. We use this programme to teach our children phonics which in turn enables them to read. It aims to teach all children to read fluently and confidently.

The children:

- learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letters/letter groups using simple picture prompts
- learn to read words using sound blending (Fred talk)
- read lively stories featuring words they have learned to sound out

How can I use RWI at home?

1. Help your child to learn the Speed sounds- indicating the special friends (pairs/trios of letters that makes a new sound (Please avoid using letter names with early readers.) The speed sound charts can be found in your child's planner.
2. Help your child learn to read words by sound-blending (FRED TALK)
3. Help your child read short sentences using the above words

Red words

These words do not fit the sound rules and are called irregular. We call them Red words and children learn to read them on sight.

what	all	no	we	so
to	me	call	her	there
want	go	old	some	one

I	the	my	you	said
your	are	be	he	does

who	were	any	where	two
love	many	here	once	talk
could	thought	great	son	water
there	their	come	watch	brought

RPS Book Band Chart for Home Reading Books

Book Band Colour	Read Write Inc. Books
LILAC	SET 1 SPEED SOUNDS
PINK	DITTIES PAGES 1-12
RED	DITTIES PAGES 13-42
YELLOW	STORY SETS 1 GREEN
LIGHT BLUE	STORY SETS 2 PURPLE
GREEN	STORY SETS 3 PINK
ORANGE	STORY SETS 4 ORANGE
TURQUOISE	STORY SETS 5 YELLOW
PURPLE	STORY SETS 6 BLUE
GOLD	STORY SETS 7 GREY
WHITE	STORY SETS 7 GREY
LIME	N/A
BROWN	N/A
GREY	N/A
DARK BLUE	N/A
DARK RED	N/A
BLACK/FREE READER	N/A