

Reading Newsletter 2

10th December 2014

Changes to reading

Next week we will start to implement changes to our reading systems ready for the new term. The purpose of this is to make sure that all children become confident and enthusiastic readers.

This means changing the way children that can **read independently** choose their reading books. For most children this will happen around Year 2 or 3; typically when they have mastered their phonics and can 'decode' most texts accurately.

This is the crucial stage when children need to read high quality 'real' books; books which extend their love of stories, develop their language skills and enhance their awareness of the world outside of their everyday experience. **Scheme reading books** do not do this! They are designed to 'scaffold' the learning to read to read process, and for this reason are often not very interesting or stimulating to young readers. After time, children become bored with reading and see it as a chore!

Action and adventure	Red
Animal stories	Green
Classics	Dark Grey
Comic & Picture Books	Light Blue
Fairy Stories	Pink
Family and Friendship	Yellow
Historical	Purple
Humour	Orange
Myths and Legends	Brown
Mystery	Dark Brown
Older Readers	Black
Poetry	Grey
Quick Reads	Bright Yellow
Science Fiction	White
Sports	Light Green

Reading for pleasure

The way to counter this is to allow children to choose books which inspire and interest them, and this means giving them free access to the real books in the school library. These books will be organised into interest areas and not by levels.

The children will be 'trained' to choose a book which is pitched at the right level for their reading ability. They can quickly assess if it's an appropriate book for them by opening the book and choosing a page – the book is appropriate for them if they are able to understand what they read.

Until children reach this stage, they will continue to read a **scheme book** which will support their reading development. Teachers will tell children and parents when they are ready for the next stage.

Library reorganisation

Next week we will be recoding the library books by genre. We will be sorting the books into the categories shown on the left and children will use the colour label to help them choose a book that will interest them.

This means that unfortunately children will **not have a school reading book** next week.

We know that many parents will have questions about these new arrangements - moving to *no levels* can seem scary. However, our current system of using levelled scheme books is outdated and is not producing passionate young readers.

We hope that if school and parents work together, this issue can be addressed and we will provide support to children and parents as the new system is introduced.

Teaching reading skills

At school we will continue to teach all children to read, no matter what level they have reached. We will do this every week in **guided reading sessions** which are ability grouped, and also through whole class text work across the curriculum.

New Term

We are aiming to have the library ready for the children to begin choosing their own books **the first full week back in the new term**. Children will be able to change their library book whichever day they need to. Time will be made available in the morning and at other set times during the day for them to visit the library to return their finished book and choose a new one.

The library will also be open **from 8.30am every morning from the KS1 playground** so that parents may help children select a book before school begins.

Thank you for your continued support.

Debbie Bastin
Headteacher