

The page is framed by a vibrant border of cartoon children of various ethnicities and hair colors, all happily reading books. The books they are holding are in various colors like blue, green, yellow, and red. The background behind the border is a solid bright blue.

KS1 Reading: September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The updated guidance from OFSTED includes a particularly strong emphasis on teaching reading in a systematic and structured way. Therefore, we tried and tested a new system for allocating our reading books last year. This proved successful, so we will be continuing with it this year.

We are mindful that the children will all be at varying stages in terms of their phonic knowledge and therefore, we want to ensure that we can provide opportunities for children to read books that are closely matched to the phonics that they are focusing upon within school as appropriate.

Phonic Books

If your child is currently reading a colour banded book that is 'green' or below (i.e. pink, red, yellow, blue), they will be given a book every other Monday from our Phonic Collection based upon the phonics that they have been learning in class. This book will be clearly labelled on the back with a phonic phase set of sounds for your child to focus upon recognising and applying within their reading.

In addition to your child receiving a book from our Phonic Collection, they will also receive a 'Love of Reading' book based upon the phonic phase in which they are working at. These books aim to provide the children with meaningful opportunities to develop their vocabulary and comprehension through reading from a wide range of texts. Please encourage your child to *reread* these texts to support them with developing their reading confidence and fluency. The 'Love of Reading' books can be changed in school on a Tuesday and a Friday.

Colour Banded Books

When teachers feel that children are able to confidently apply their phonic knowledge from Phase 2 to Phase 5, they will be given a colour banded book starting from 'Orange' as part of our school's reading benchmarking system. Please note that if your child is currently reading an 'Orange' book or above, then they will continue to read from our colour banded books, which can be put in for changing when they have finished reading them.

Please see the next page for guidance regarding the progression of reading colours according to our school's benchmarking system. Our end of year expected reading standards are 'Turquoise' for Year 1 and 'White' for Year 2.

Reading Colour Progression

Pink	We are no longer using these parts of the Benchmark banding system. These books have now been split according to the phonics covered within the book. Once children are at the point of consolidating and practicing all of the phonics taught, they will move on to the Benchmark system starting with Orange.
Red	
Yellow	
Blue	
Green	
Orange	
Turquoise	
Purple	
Gold	
White	
Emerald	
Ruby	
Sapphire	

We look forward to supporting your child with developing their love of reading this year and with making further reading progress. We will be completing phonic and reading assessments this term, so please bear with us whilst we update our reading information and adjust the reading books that children are given as appropriate. We hope the children enjoy their first reading book of this new academic year. Please remember to sign their reading record when you hear them read, so they can work towards their reading awards.

If you are interested in finding further ideas for helping your child engage with their reading at home, please refer to our 'English' area on our school website. This can be found by following the 'Parent+' link and 'Curriculum' tab.

Best wishes,

KS1 Team