



Colour banded reading books

Dear Parents / Carers

As discussed in last Thursday's Parent Coffee Morning we are now introducing colour banded (levelled) reading books for all children in Years 1 and 2.

Children will be assessed by either their class teacher or myself as reading lead to determine what colour level book they will take home. These books (and the colour levels) are separate from Read Write Inc. Children on the RWI programme will continue to bring home their RWI Show-Off reads as well as now bringing home a colour banded reading book (starting in Term 4).

Why?

At Cherry Orchard we are passionate about reading and providing your child(ren) with as many reading opportunities as possible. We believe that if you teach a child to read and keep that child reading (and talking) it will open the door to many opportunities.

Currently your child(ren) has access to RWI reading books, class shared books and library books. We truly believe that the most confident readers are those who read regularly both in and out of school. We want to make reading an enjoyable experience for you and your child(ren) so encourage you to share library books that are sent home on a weekly basis. We also want all children to become independent readers. The new reading books they will be bringing home are largely phonetically decodable to your child's current reading ability. These books will of course provide your child(ren) with some aspects of challenge.

What does a good reader look like?

A good reader has a love for reading. They are able to decode and blend familiar and unfamiliar words. They are able to read with good pace and fluency and use a story teller voice (expression). They take note of illustrations and punctuation to aid their reading and are able to answer questions about what they have read (comprehension). A good reader can

make predictions and alter these when they receive new information. They can voice their opinions on what they have read and identify key book features. They also become familiar with different authors and read for pleasure.

How often?

Ideally we would like your child(ren) to read every night for at least 10 minutes. Therefore, we will give your child(ren) the opportunity to change their reading book on a daily basis. This means that children **must** have their yellow reading record books in school every day.

We know that sometimes life gets in the way of reading every night and if this is the case please do keep the reading book for an additional day. If you do keep the reading book for another day we will still expect your child(ren) to have their reading record book in school every day. This is because we use the reading record book as a form of communication with you. Children will be expected to hand their reading book and reading record book in every morning, independently taking it out of their bag and putting it into the allocated basket in their classroom. They will then have a chance to change their book during the school day. **Helping your child at home**

If your child is struggling in any way with their home reading book, please do let me or their class teacher know who will be able to suggest ways to help. All of the strategies to reading children are taught in Read Write Inc should be applied to reading at home. Children should be encouraged to 'Fred Talk' (sound out) words phonetically and then blend the sounds together to make the word. Some words are not 'Fred-able' these words we call Red words. Children need to learn these words by sight, which they will be working on in class but they may require a little support with at home.

Questions?

If you have any questions at all about the above information, please do not hesitate to come and see me after school. You can either grab me for a chat on the playground after school or arrange a more formal meeting with me via the school office.

Thank you for your continued support

Happy Reading!

Miss Featherstone and the KS1 Team

