



13th September, 2019

Dear parent / carer,

“Teach a child to read and keep them reading and we will change everything” - Jeanette Winterson

Passion for reading

We passionately believe that reading is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.

We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

At the heart of the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme is the desire for children to see reading as an enjoyable experience, with the strong belief that children should never be at the frustration point, where they are struggling to decode a book because it presents words they cannot sound.

Reorganisation of our reading scheme

To better support this philosophy, we have re-organised our reading scheme in two key ways:

- We have changed our colour bands, so that they correspond with the RWI colours. We feel this will be much clearer and more useful for children, parents and staff to use. There are two colour bands beyond RWI (Gold and Black) before children become a ‘free reader’. (The new reading scheme colour band organisation is available on our website for parents to see)
- We have ensured that the books on each RWI related colour band only contain words with the sounds children have encountered in RWI sessions. This is to ensure that they can ‘Fred Talk’ or sound out any words they encounter.

RWI black and white books

The black and white RWI book that children have been reading in RWI is perhaps the most important book of all, as reading it at home provides a chance to build on the work that has been going on in school. This book will be given out by the class teacher and will go home to your child when they have completed the 3rd read of it in school.

It’s really important to stress how **vital** it is that parents share this book with their child. The link below is to a page on our website. If you follow the link and download the presentation from RWI titled ‘listening to your child read parent meeting’, it sets out the crucial role this plays in supporting children’s reading.

<https://www.firslower.co.uk/page/?title=Read+Write+Inc%2E&pid=71>

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Changing books

We always want to maximise the use of our staff time in school. Therefore we want to trial a new system, where parents change their own child's books, from a box with a selection of books from their reading scheme colour band (2 books per week).

Staff will ensure that the Reading Record book (Pine and Y1) or Home School Record / Fish book (Y2-Y4) has the reading scheme colour sticker for the band they are on.

The book boxes will be left out in the following locations:

Pine- under the Pine canopy

Year 1 - under the Y1 canopy

Year 2 - corridor outside Y2 classrooms

Year 3 - corridor outside Y3 classrooms

Year 4- corridor outside Y4 classrooms

When can I change my child's book?

Staff will put the boxes out from 8:45 - 8:55 each morning for parents to use if they wish to change their books.

How many books can I select?

Initially, as we re stock our scheme, parents should change up to **two** books a week. (Three books including a RWI black and white book).

What happens if I am not available to change my child's books?

Please speak to / email your child's class teacher, who will be happy to make alternative arrangements involving school staff changing the books.

Communicating with staff

Please bear in mind that mornings are a very busy time for class teachers and this is not a good time for discussing any issues with them. You are of course very welcome to make an alternative time to talk to a teacher after school and you can communicate by email.

Parent Feedback

We will be issuing a questionnaire for feedback on this new system when it has been running a few weeks and we will be discussing that feedback at the Parent Forum, later on this term.

Thank you in advance for your patience while we trial this new system.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher