



9th October, 2020

Dear parents/ carers

Reading in Y1 - Explaining our 'Best Fit' RWI Groups

As the children in Holly and Maple class are working in 'class' bubbles, we are having to deliver the teaching of RWI in a different way, as we used to group 'across' Year 1 (pre Covid 19).

Best fit groups

It has meant that we have had to create 'best fit' groups. Hence, you may find that you need to support your child a bit more when they are reading the story at home, or you may find that your child can read books fluently and therefore you may feel that they are a bit 'easy'.

How can The Firs support my child if they are finding the books a bit tricky?

We have a wonderful new online resource called **Virtual Classroom** which gives us access to lots of films (shown as daily lessons on the RWI YouTube channel during school closure). These films help children to practise reading and spelling sounds and words. We can carefully pick which films will help your child to make progress and email those links to you for your child to watch at home.

What can I do if I feel the story book is too easy for my child?

If your child is reading the story fluently, encourage them to read it with a 'storyteller's' voice (in other words, to use expression) . Comprehension is extremely important, so check their understanding of the story by asking them questions (sometimes questions can be found at the back of the book).

Read a high quality picture book to your child every day and 'grow' their comprehension. Children so love being read to and they learn so much through having stories read to them. Please click on this link to find out how. [Why read to your child?](#)

Also, bear in mind that reading is about enjoyment. As adults, we read books for pleasure and this is also true of children!

How do I know if my child's RWI group is challenging them?

Even if you feel that your child is reading their story book fluently, please be assured that they will be appropriately challenged in their RWI lesson. A RWI lesson comprises so many different elements besides reading, for example, your child will be practising spelling, applying their sounds in the *Hold a Sentence* activity and building writing stamina in the *Write About* task.

Why is my child bringing home a Reading Record sheet for a different colour?

All the RWI assessments have now been completed and we have used this information to create 'best fit' groups. Currently in Y1, we have three groups- Learning to Blend, Green and Pink.

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Why does my child have a Purple Reading Record sheet but is bringing home a Green 'black and white' RWI book?

As explained above, we have had to create 'best fit' groups. Your child is in the **Green** group, hence they are bringing home a Green 'black and white' book (they have read this book in RWI and an 'extra' read will help to develop fluency). Green and Purple books both contain Set 1 sounds. The only difference between them is the speed children read words at. The Purple level is there for children who need to build greater fluency i.e. they need another level to practise building speed.

Why is my child bringing home a Reading Record sheet for a **lower colour band?**

The most recent RWI assessment showed that your child is at a lower band compared with when they were assessed last. Please don't worry if this is the case. It is only to be expected, with so much time not in school and we have put together a carefully devised 'catch up' programme to help your child.

We hope this clarifies a few things.

Yours sincerely,



Kerry Mercer
Deputy Head/RWI Leader