



Monday 12th September 2022

Dear Parents/carers,

We are writing to let you know that we are making some changes to the way that reading books are given out.

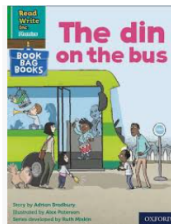
What is the rationale behind the change?

To help children make the best progress in reading, the books read at home need to **closely match** the children’s phonic ability. The best way to ensure this was to remove all the non-Read, Write, Inc. (RWI) books and invest in more RWI ‘Book Bag Books’. The Book Bag Book carefully matches the storybook read in class as they are thematically linked and allow the child to review sounds and words they met in the storybook. You can see how the themes are linked from the example below:-

Book read in RWI session



Linked Book Bag Book



So that we can ensure your child is reading the correct books, they will now be issued by the child’s RWI teacher and we will no longer have baskets of books outside the classroom. The frequency and number of books will depend on the reading level, as set out in the table below:-

	Red, Green, Purple, Pink, Orange	Yellow, Blue, Grey
How often books will be sent home	Every three days (so if books go home on a Monday, they will then go home again on a Thursday)	Once a week
Number of books	two	three
Type of books issued	Book read in RWI session + Book Bag book (fiction)	Book read in RWI session + Book Bag book (fiction) + Book Bag book (non-fiction)

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How to use Book Bag Books

1.

READ PHONICS STORYBOOKS IN CLASS

Children read a levelled Read, Write, Inc Storybook in class.

2.

TAKE HOME STORYBOOKS

Children take home the RWI Storybook read in class.

3.

TAKE HOME BOOK BAG BOOKS

Children take home a carefully matched Book Bag book, after reading the Storybook at home.



Why is it important to read the RWI Storybook again at home?

Children read it for extra practice as their speed and understanding improves on every read. Please don't worry that books are too easy. Children enjoy re-reading stories they know well. They will be able to read it confidently and will need very little (if any) support from a grown up.

Will my child need support with the Book Bag Books?

Your child may need a little support as this will be an unseen book.



How long will my child have to read the books?

The table on the first page shows how often books will be changed. This will be either every three days or every week, depending on what level they are on. Books will be 'checked-in' and 'checked-out' every time.

Is it important for my child to read the books within this time frame?

Yes. The Book Bag Book complements the RWI Storybook read in class, so teachers will need to collect the books in, to ensure that we have enough copies for the next group of children.

How will the books be stored?

Every child will be issued with a popper wallet for their reading record and books. They need to take their wallet to their RWI session **every day**. This is necessary so that 'old' books can be swapped for 'new' books.

What do I do if my child has previously read a Book Bag Book?

Ask them to read the story again. Reading 'past' books will really help your child to develop greater fluency and understanding.

Does my child still need to log on to Oxford Owl?

Yes. As well as sending home a copy of the storybook your child has just read, we will still continue to assign it as an eBook. Some children prefer to read it as an electronic version and for each book, there is a quiz which the children really enjoy! Once books are assigned, your child can re-read any of their previous eBooks at any time, which they will enjoy and we would really encourage, as it will help them to develop fluency and confidence.



What can parents and carers do to help?

- keep the Reading Record and reading books in the popper wallet **at all times**
- check that your child brings the wallet to school with them **every day**
- hear your child read the books within the time frame (either 3 days or 1 week) and write a simple comment in the child's Reading Record about their successes.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the PTFA for funding additional Book Bag Books, as it means that we have enough books for sending home. We would also like to thank you for continuing to support your child's reading journey; it really does make a **huge** difference! Please look out for books coming home this week!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Kind regards,

Kerry Mercer (RWI Leader)