

Dear parents/carers,

Book banding changes

In response to new government approaches, we are making a small change to the nature of the books children are bringing home to read. Although this is being brought to the attention of all parents, this will mostly affect EYFS, Year One and Year Two. Extracts from the current Ofsted framework for inspection of early reading can be found on the second page of this letter.

It is now an expectation that the books children read at home and at school closely match the phonics teaching in school and phonics phase the children are being taught. Our school uses plans adapted from the 'Letters and Sounds' document, which can easily be found online. Letters and Sounds is split into six phases and our school's expectation regarding these is outlined on the second page of this letter.

The school feels that we need a balance of both the challenge of reading unfamiliar words yet also the chance to revisit and practise sounds taught in school, in line with the government's expectations. With this in mind, our approach moving forwards (starting next week) will be as follows:

- The children will continue to change their colour band book twice a week, allowing them to re-read books to the point of fluency (as explained in a previous correspondence) and to also build skills in decoding and comprehending unfamiliar words.
- The children will have one book a week that is closely matched to the phonics phase they are being taught or have been taught already. These books will be from the Pearson, 'Bug Club' scheme. This book may well be easier to read than their colour band book, but we need to remember this is book is for practising and consolidating.

It is important to note, that it is unlikely that this will affect the approach for children in Year Two and beyond as, if a child comfortably passed the phonics screening check, they will be working beyond the phases outlined in the Letters and Sounds document.

As a school we will continue to expose children to a wide and rich range of stories, non-fiction books, rhymes and poems; let's not take away the pleasure, awe and wonder that books and stories can bring. All children and families are always welcome to borrow books from our school library and book corners.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss this change, please don't hesitate in setting up a meeting with myself (as English subject co-ordinator) or your child's class teacher; we are dedicated to making reading both a success and a pleasure for your child.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Eglington

Letters and Sounds phonics phases

Time	Content
Rec Autumn 1	Phase 1
Rec Autumn 2	Phase 2
Rec Spring 1	Phase 3
Rec Spring 2	Phase 3
Rec Summer 1	Phase 3
Rec Summer 2	Phase 4
Y1 Autumn 1	Revision of phases 3 and 4
Y1 Autumn 2	Phase 5
Y1 Spring 1	Phase 5
Y1 Spring 2	Phase 5
Y1 Summer 1	Phase 5
Y1 Summer 2	Phase 5

Ofsted School Inspection Handbook, section 298, p.87

- The school's phonics programme matches or exceeds the expectations of the national curriculum and the early learning goals. The school has clear expectations of pupils' phonics progress term-by-term, from Reception to Year 2.
- The sequence of reading books shows a cumulative progression in phonics knowledge that is matched closely to the school's phonics programme. Teachers give pupils sufficient practice in reading and re-reading books that match the grapheme-phoneme correspondences they know, both at school and at home.