

Rationale for Changing Reading Books



At Birkwood Primary School, we want our children to be 'readers', not just children who can read. Competence in reading is the key to independent learning and has a direct effect on progress in all other areas of the curriculum. Children read at school at every given opportunity and we believe with support from **home**, children will develop a passion for reading and become fluent readers with good understanding.

Children at Birkwood Primary School will bring home a reading book at least once a week (children in upper KS2 may have a book over a longer period of time). The children are listened to weekly in school and their understanding is checked before books are changed; children are encouraged to re-read books. Books are selected from the appropriate coloured bands and reflect the phonics phase and/or targets of each child.

Re-reading is very important, particularly in EYFS and KS1 because newly independent readers need lots of practice to get past the 'sounding out every word phase' into fluent reading. When a child reads a book over and over again, they are getting lots of practice to build fluency. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of re-reading. When children read the same book multiple times, they pick up new information, dive deeper into the meaning of the book, and make connections between themselves and the book — as well as between the book and other books they have heard.

In order for a book to be changed, children need to show some understanding of what they have read. Therefore, questioning children during reading time is very important. Please see the 'Reading Support for Parents' tab on our website that includes questions to ask children during reading time.

The table below shows how the coloured bands progress and which phonics phase they are linked to:

PINK	(Phase 2)
RED	(Phase 3)
YELLOW	(Phase 3/4)
BLUE	(Phase 4/5)
GREEN	(Phase 5)
ORANGE	(Phase 5)
TURQUOISE	
PURPLE	
GOLD	
WHITE	
LIME	
RUBY	
SAPPHIRE	
BROWN	
Free Reader/BLACK	