

How is my child learning to read in school?

We use a whole class approach to the teaching of reading from Y3 onwards. All children work through a class text every week with their class teacher.

Individual reading

Any child who is not reading at the level expected for their age group will have two extra reading sessions at week with a teacher. One of these sessions is a pre read of the class text they will be using the following week. The other session is a guided read when they read a colour coded or book banded reading book as a group. They bring this book home to continue reading it during the week. Although they will have already read this book in school, they will either need to read it again to build up their confidence and fluency or will have been set a certain number of pages to read in preparation for their next read in school.

Any child who is reading at the level expected for their age will have an individual reading book which is checked once a week and changed if they have finished it.

Why are books colour banded?

Book banding is a way of judging the difficulty of a book. Your child will read a certain level until they are assessed for accuracy of decoding and understanding or comprehension of the text in order to see if they are ready for the next level. Each year group has an expected level/levels a child must be reading comfortably at in order to be considered reading at the level expected for their age.

How often should my child read at home?

In Key Stage 2 child are expected to read three times a week as part of their home work either at home or at lunch time in the library club.

My child is already reading well, do I have to hear them read every page?

As your child progresses through Key Stage 2 and the different levels, the length and complexity of books grows, they don't need to be heard read in the way they did in Key Stage 1. It is important to check that they are reading accurately, as well as completing their book rather than just skimming through book after book. You can listen to a page or a paragraph and then talk about the characters, what they think will happen next, why a character is behaving in a certain way or the meaning of certain words.

My child reads more than their school reading book, can I record this in their diary?

Yes, please record any other books your child is reading at home. It is important that your child reads widely as possible.

What sort of things can I write in the reading record?

Please don't feel that you have to write lots; the date and the page number your child read up to is sufficient, although you can write a comment if you wish!

Can my child record in the reading diary?

Yes, your child knows that they can also record in their diary.

How does school use the reading diary?

School uses the diary to see what reading your child has done at home in the previous week. We also use it to celebrate a child's commitment to their reading and reward them each time they have read twenty five times.