



W·A·L·L·I·S·D·E·A·N

FEDERATED SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents/Carers

In July 2021 the Department of Education published a document for schools about reading. The document stated:

Decodable' books and texts that children read should run alongside or a little behind the teaching of the GPCs (*Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence*), so that they always feel a sense of achievement when they are asked to read such books. It is important that children practise their reading with 'decodable' books or texts. They speed up the time they need to gain sufficient accuracy to read a wide range of children's literature.

The national curriculum says that pupils should be taught to: ... read aloud accurately books that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge and that do not require them to use other strategies to work out words. This is why schools should invest in books that have been carefully structured in cumulative steps for children learning to read, so that they can decode every word as their knowledge of the alphabetic code increases. These books are often referred to simply as 'decodable' books.

So that beginner readers read books at the right level of difficulty, teachers should make sure their organisation of the books matches exactly the order in which GPCs are introduced in the programme. For example, a book that includes the word 'play' should be placed so that children are not asked to read it until the digraph 'ay' has been taught.

**Reading framework: teaching the foundations of literacy July 2021.
Department for education.**

This means that our home reading books should exactly run alongside the teaching of synthetic phonics. As a federation we are therefore changing our phonics and reading scheme.

We already use Read Write Inc (RWI) for our teaching of phonics but will now be using their book bag books as our home reading books. These books will match the phonic sounds your child is learning in RWI in school.

Your child will receive a new book on a Monday in their RWI session. This will remain as their book bag book for one week.

Not only will we be focusing on Phonics but also developing children's fluency in reading. If your child finishes this book at home, please support them in reading it through a number of times to work on their fluency.

You can also play a number of phonic games using these books such as 'find the sound' or 'find the word'. For those children on more complicated books you can focus on comprehension skills, for example answering questions about the story or retelling.

Children working at Blue book and above are also assessed on their reading fluency so are timed to see how many words they can read accurately in one minute. This is also something that can be practiced at home.

Before half term we completed a Read, Write Inc phonics assessment and all children have been grouped according to this and their new home reading books will match.

The order of colours of our book bag books will now follow the Read Write Inc scheme.:

- Sound Blending Books
- Red
- Green
- Purple
- Pink (End of Year R Expectation)
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue (End of Year 1 Expectation)
- Grey (Early/ Mid-Year 2 Expectation)

Children that have finished their phonics teaching will then move onto our book banding books. These children will be assessed on their fluency and their comprehension skills. They will then follow the order:

- White then Lime (infants)
- Brown then Grey (Juniors)

After this, children become Free Readers and can chose their own books.

Please continue to read a variety of other books eg their school library book, to supplement their reading and book experiences. Please continue to support your child's reading development through sharing stories, poems, rhymes, songs and non-fiction books with them at home. Please remember the local library service is free to join.

Thank you for your support.