

A PARENTS' GUIDE TO BOOK BANDS

What are Book Bands?

The Book Band system helps us to grade our books by difficulty level. Each level has its own colour and includes a selection of different reading scheme books and 'real' books. The difference between each band is gradual so that children will not experience difficulty when moving from one to the next.

This chart gives an indication of the range of Book Band levels at which most children will be reading as they progress through the school.

BOOK BAND COLOUR	FS2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
LILAC							
PINK							
RED							
YELLOW							
BLUE							
GREEN							
ORANGE							
TURQUOISE							
PURPLE							
GOLD							
WHITE			X	X			
LIME							
BROWN							
GREY							
DARK BLUE							
BURGUNDY							
BLACK							

The chart shows the Book Bands for an 'average' group of children but children are all individuals who learn and make progress at different rates, so the chart is only a guide. As well as periods of rapid progress, your child will probably have periods of consolidation when progress is not as obvious. Although this may seem worrying, this is the time when they have the chance to develop confidence in using and applying their newly acquired skills.

It is really important that children develop their comprehension skills alongside their ability to read the words on the page so you may find that your child is able to read the words fluently but continues on the same Book Band colour for a while to enable them to focus on developing their understanding. Class teachers assess the children's reading on a regular basis and will change their Book Band colour only when they are confident that **both** the comprehension and word reading targets have been fully met. Once children get to Dark Blue, they may go straight to 'Free Reading' instead of going through the last two bands.

Please discourage your child from seeing the Book Bands as a race through the colours, but help them to understand that each band will offer a range of books which will help them in developing different reading skills.

Thank you for reading with your child at home. It really is an essential part of their development and you play a vital role in nurturing their love of reading.