



Walter Infant School

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Headteacher: Mrs Judy Wheeler

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Dear Parents and Carers

We have made some significant changes to the teaching of reading at Walter Infant School.

In order to address the expectations of the curriculum thoroughly, we have introduced guided reading: it happens during a timetabled slot each day in all year groups apart from Robin. This has been happening in Foundation 2 since the beginning of the academic year.

How does Guided Reading work?

- The children will work in groups according to the book band they are reading – sharing texts and discussing what they have read.
- It is an ideal opportunity to teach children the key skills they need to be a reader, ensuring that they develop reading, book knowledge and comprehension.
- Guided Reading is fun, interactive and proven to be a very successful way to teach young children to read – it develops confidence, fluency, inference and deduction skills.

Detailed notes on the children's reading will be kept by the teachers; you will know when the children have had a guided reading session as it will be recorded in the reading diary. Each child will have one guided reading session every week. Some children will also benefit from having one to one reading sessions with their teacher or Early Years Practitioner, this will also be recorded in the reading diary.

What are book bandings?

We are no longer using, or referring to 'stages'; we have adopted 'book banding', which is graded in colours. Your child has been assessed by their class teacher and assigned a colour band. Each colour band covers a breadth of genres and a variety of topics to interest the children. The books within each band do not need to be read in any particular order. The book bands are listed below.



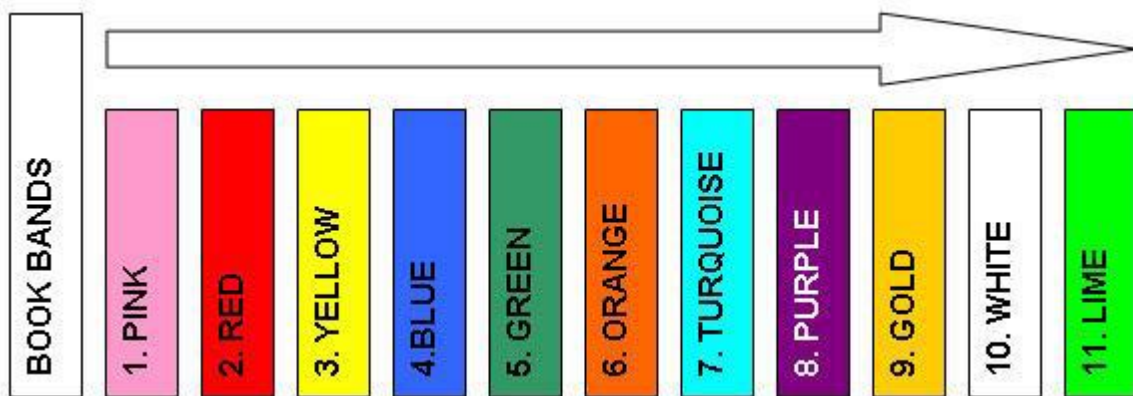
A member of



The University of Reading ITT Partnership



- The colours are:



How can I support my child with reading at home?

The children will bring books home to read along with a reading diary. Please use this diary to communicate when you, or another adult, have read with your child. Usually they will take home an easier read than they are reading in school with a teacher. This is to allow for a comfortable and pleasant read. We encourage you to ask questions before, during and after the reading and to discuss the book with the children. Reading at home should be enjoyable – please choose a time that works for you as a family.

On Mondays the children will change their books, please ensure that the book and reading diary are in their book bags.

Your child's reading diary needs to stay in your child's book bag, so we can update it with reading activities during the week.

Please continue to read to your child, and enjoying rhymes and singing together. Bringing home reading books should not replace these activities.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to approach your child's class teacher or myself.

Kind regards

Mrs Corinne Lewis
Foundation Stage Leader