



Reading in

Early Years and Key Stage 1

The 1:1 reading that you will complete with your child at home is really beneficial as it gives your child a chance to practise what they have learned, build up their reading knowledge and learn about how books work. This is an essential part of your child's learning and we thank you for your support.

Reading Books

The children will bring home a reading book each week that we feel is at an appropriate level for their stage of development. Explained within this letter is how we organise our books, using the national book banding scheme. They will start with picture books without words which need to be discussed and the children should be encouraged to tell their own story as you enjoy the book together. When we feel that the children are ready these books will start to contain simple words which the children will meet regularly, our 'tricky words' and throughout the year the children will build up their sight vocabulary of them e.g. the, go, to. The books will also contain words that they can blend with their letter sound knowledge e.g. c-a-t. We follow a variety of reading schemes in school and encourage the children to use a range of strategies including phonics, picture clues and whole word recognition in order to support their reading.

It is important to make reading a positive time in order to encourage their reading development. Please try to find a quiet time (without distractions) when you can share this book with your child. Talk to them about the pictures, help them if they are finding it tricky and discuss with them whether they liked the book or their favourite part.

Your child should have their reading book and reading record in school every day. Your child will have a reading record book for us to comment on their reading and for you to comment on their reading at home as it is important for us to know whether children have been listened to at home.

Please continue to read a range of other books to your child as it helps them to develop their vocabulary, story patterns and knowledge of how books work. In addition to this draw their attention to the range of print that is around us, this might include reading road signs, cereal packets, magazines etc. Please also remember the wealth of books that are available in Kendal library.



Book Banding

What is book banding?

Book banding is a national scheme that grades children's reading books according to the difficulty of the text. Each level of books is given a colour which is the sticker that will be on the side of the book that your child brings home.

Why book band?

When a child is learning to read, it is important that they have access to lots of different kinds of books and a wide vocabulary. Most reading schemes have their own core vocabulary and it can be found that children struggle when they are asked to read something outside of that scheme. Book banding is designed to help schools grade their reading books across schemes. Children have access to the variety they need, whilst still reading at the appropriate level for them.

How are the books levelled?

All publishers grade their scheme to their specifications but the Book Band system is far broader in its levelling. It is based on careful research into the kind of words used in each book, the length of the sentences, punctuation, story style or non-fiction format and text size. It also supports a progression of reading strategies.

What can I expect?

Your child will initially be assessed for the correct Book Band colour and will bring home books from various schemes within that colour. It may be, because of the broader nature of Book Band levelling, there are books from different levels of the same reading scheme in one colour band. As long as the book is in your child's book band colour, the level is right for them.

When will my child move to the next colour band?

For a child to be an effective reader, they need to not only read the words on the page, but also understand what they have read. For this to happen, they need to read with 98% accuracy (that is only two errors in 100 words). The school will carefully monitor your child's reading and move them to the next colour when we decide they are ready.