

Updated October 2009



Reading Guidance for Parents

Leaflet 1 - Pink and Red Book Bands

Your child is starting to read and enjoy sharing books. The following guidance is designed to help you support your child with reading at home. The suggestions are not designed to be used every time you read with your child, but to give you an idea of what skills your child needs to develop within these book bands.

Please note that although your child will have been given a suggested book band by their teacher, this is just a guide. They may sometimes choose a harder book for a challenge, or to read with an adult. Occasionally taking a simpler book can help them develop their fluency and expression - or they may simply want to enjoy reading an old favourite!



Tricky Words for Leaflet 1

the	to	I
no	go	into
he	she	me
we	be	was
you	they	all
are	my	her



Phonic and other Reading Strategies

Your child should be encouraged to use their phonic skills (sounding out and blending the sounds) as the main approach for reading. The books marked 'sounds easy readers' are particularly useful to practise these skills.

In the texts your child will be bringing home you may come across 'Tricky Words'. These are keywords which are not easy to sound out, and therefore need to be learnt as sight vocabulary. You will find a list of tricky keywords appropriate to this level on the back of this leaflet.

Your child may

- Be able to blend together simple CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant e.g. cat, hen, pin).
- Begin to learn and use the 42 units of sound that are used in the English language (as discussed at the Year R phonic workshop).
- Recognise some tricky words by sight.

Book Skills and Response to Books

You can also help your child by encouraging them to

- Locate the title.
- Open the front cover.
- Turn pages appropriately.
- Follow the print from left to right and from top to bottom.
- Make predictions about the story.
- Point to the words as they say them.
- Use the pictures to tell the story.

These skills can also be practised when you are reading aloud to your child.

Reading Aloud to Your Child

Research has shown that reading aloud to children of all ages helps them to develop their writing skills. This is because it helps pupils to develop their knowledge of language and story structure. It also provides them with a greater range of ideas which they can use in their own writing, and gives them access to texts that may be too complex for them to read alone.

At Whiteley, we regularly read books aloud to pupils from YR to Y6, and we would encourage parents to continue enjoying the pleasure of sharing bedtime stories (or at any other time!), even after their child has become an independent reader. Our librarian, Nikki Yeo, is always happy to recommend suitable books if you are stuck for ideas.

Fostering a love of Reading

It is also valuable for children to see adults enjoying reading themselves. Showing your child that you enjoy reading a book or newspaper yourself can help them to see the purpose for reading, and encourage them to become a reader.

Other ways to engage children as readers include listening to CD stories, visiting the library or a book shop to choose their own books and sharing books with their siblings. Reading should never be a chore. Helping your child to develop a love of books now will help them to develop as independent readers as they get older.