



Birklands Primary School

Reading Newsletter

September 2021



We are reigniting a love for reading at Birklands Primary School...

Reading has always been a top priority for us at Birklands, and this has never been more the case than now. Being able to read is an essential life skill that unlocks so many other opportunities across the curriculum. In addition to this, we strive to create a reading for pleasure culture at our school, whereby children genuinely enjoy sharing books, being read to and exploring different genres and authors. We have recently invested in a wide-range of reading materials to ensure that we can meet the needs of our growing school and to maximise the reading potential of every pupil.

Expectations

Each child will be provided with a book from our colour-banded scheme. This book has been matched to their current reading ability, taking into account their reading accuracy, fluency and understanding of what they have read. All books must be kept in the plastic reading wallet provided when not used to ensure that they do not get unnecessarily damaged and can be enjoyed for years to come. It is expected that children read at home at least five times a week. This reading activity should be recorded in your child's reading diary. Children should bring their reading book and diary to school in their plastic wallet each day.



Colour-Banded Reading Books

Our Rising Stars Reading Planet scheme provides carefully matched texts for readers from Nursery all the way through to Year 6.

Early Reading

Lilac band fully prepares our youngest children for reading by developing essential early language skills through familiar Early Years topics, themes and stories. Fiction and non-fiction books are paired in each strand to fully explore the aspects from the phase one phonics programme. Children will have the opportunity to develop vocabulary and communication skills through paired wordless fiction and non-fiction at this stage. These texts will encourage children to retell stories in their own words whilst learning the technical skills of handling and navigating a book. Our early readers will progress to explore the concept of segmenting and blending in the Lilac Plus first words books. This stage bridges the gap between wordless books and first sentences through familiar stories that use very simple decodable words

Rocket Phonics

These books (Pink – Orange) support the teaching of phonics at Birklands. Each text is fully-decodable and is aligned to our phonics programme. During this stage our children will:

- Practise phonic decoding skills in context through a range of modern and colourful fiction and non-fiction.
- Develop reading fluency, a key skill to understanding what they are reading.
- Develop comprehension skills through exciting books featuring engaging artwork and photographs.
- Nurture a love of reading through stories and information books that they will genuinely want to read.

Cosmic Kids

During this stage of their reading journey (Turquoise – White) our children will continue to develop their decoding skills as well as their reading fluency and comprehension skills. Books during this stage will:

- Bring curriculum topics to life with exciting character stories linked to history, geography, science and more!
- Tell the story of modern adventures featuring relatable and diverse characters and topics.
- Explore themes such as bravery, teamwork and problem-solving.

Reading Planet

During Key Stage 2, we aim to continue developing our children into confident, independent readers with 96 books covering Lime to Red+ book bands.

Fiction

Children will read books that capture their imaginations through classic and contemporary illustrated fiction.

Non-fiction

These books aim to spark curiosity and intrigue with fascinating content that supports study across the curriculum and taps into children's interests. Our children will:

- Develop essential non-fiction reading skills; the books are packed with non-fiction text features such as infographics, diagrams, glossaries and captions.
- Widen their knowledge of different non-fiction text types with instruction books, guides and biographies.
- Engage in non-fiction using books that explore modern and relevant topics such as computing, environmental issues and sports.

Book Banding Overview for those children working at ARE

Nursery	Lilac			
Reception	Lilac Plus	Pink	Red	Yellow
Year 1	Blue	Green	Orange	
Year 2	Turquoise	Purple	Gold	White
Year 3	Lime	Brown (Mercury)		Brown (Venus)
Year 4	Grey (Earth)		Grey (Mars)	
Year 5	Dark Blue		Blue-Red	
Year 6	Blue-Red		Red+	

Comprehension

It is essential that children's understanding of what they read (their comprehension) develops alongside their ability to read (their decoding) and do this fluently. To assist with this, there are a set of questions at the back of every book for children to answer once they have finished the text. This is one of the activities that you could do at home with your child to support them with their overall reading development.

100 Books to Read Before You Leave...

In addition to the colour-banded reading books, each of our four phases in school has a selection of 100 fiction books for children to choose from. Each child will be given a booklet displaying their texts which they can tick off during each two-year period at Birklands. The idea behind this approach is to foster a love of reading and an enjoyment of a wide-range of books. As these books may be above reading level for your child, we encourage you to read these texts with them and to benefit from the reading experience together.

Certainly, for our more fluent readers and older pupils, this is an opportunity for them to explore an extensive range of authors and genres. These children will be expected to write a recommendation after they have read each book, or to discuss their book in class, which will influence their peers' next book choice and create a 'buzz' for reading.

**THE MORE THAT YOU READ,
THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW.
THE MORE THAT YOU'LL LEARN,
THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO.**