



## **A new and exciting reading challenge has arrived at Birklands Primary School!**

At Birklands Primary School, we aim to develop a love and appreciation of reading which will stay with children for life. We hope to achieve this through our new reading initiative.

Currently all children bring home a reading book that is carefully selected to match their reading ability (the coloured banded books). These books are pitched at an instructional level to enable pupils to develop their reading skills. Pupils gradually progress through the bands until they reach a black band which equates to the 'free reader' standard.

This term we are launching our '100 books to read before you leave Year 4' initiative. All children will be challenged to read as many titles from this list in a two year period. The books have been carefully selected to represent a wide range of authors, genres and time periods. Once a book has been read, pupils will be asked to write a recommendation for their peers, summarising the text and explaining what they as a reader enjoyed about it. For every five books that pupils read, they will be awarded with a certificate.

### **Why do we want children to read 100 books before they leave Year 4?**

We believe that reading is one of the most powerful tools of learning both in and out of school. We want to develop a real 'buzz' for reading at Birklands, where children are keen to express their views on books with friends and are enthused about their next book choice.

**Children who read often and widely get better at it** – practice makes perfect in almost everything that humans do, and reading is no different. Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.

**Reading improves concentration** – when they are reading, children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story. Reading often will develop the skill to do this for longer.

**Reading teaches children about the world around them** – through reading a variety of books children learn about people, places, and events outside of their own experience.

**Reading improves vocabulary and language skills** – children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and conversations.

**Reading develops a child's imagination** – as we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling.

**Reading helps to develop empathy** – children imagine how they would feel in that situation.

**Reading is a fun** – a book doesn't take up much space and is light to carry, so you take it anywhere so you can never be bored if you have a book in your bag!

**Reading is a great way to spend time together** – reading together on the sofa and at bedtime are just some of the ways of spending time together.

If you have any questions about reading please come and speak to us.