

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Heather we want all of our children in our school to develop a life-long love of reading.

Our books are organised the books into a system that is similar to the National Reading Books Bands, where coloured bands provide a structure for a variety of fiction and non-fiction books across a range of publishers. We do not follow one single reading scheme at Heather, as we feel it is important for children to experience a broad range of different text types, including digital media. This will mean that we will be able to offer our children a richer and more varied reading experience.

Popular publishers such as Oxford Reading Tree and Rigby Stars indicate which Book Band their books fit into. The difference between each colour band/number stage is very gradual, so that children do not experience great difficulty moving up through to the next colour. You may find that there may be books from different stages/levels of a particular reading scheme in one colour band because of the broader nature of the Book Band System. The books will vary in a number of ways, including layout, size, vocabulary and length, to give the children a rich diet of literature.

Progress through the bands is not automatic and it is important to ensure that children working in the early bands have secure understanding so that they remain in control of the task and continue to be well-motivated as they move on to more challenging texts.

How you can help your child.

Do hear your child read every day.

Little and often is more beneficial than a long session once a week.

Think about how long your child is reading for - the amount of reading time shouldn't exceed your child's span of attention.

Share a book with your child at bedtime.

Pick your timing carefully - it's best not to embark on a reading session when your child is tired.

Every child is an individual - try not to compare your child's progress with other children or with brothers and sisters

Things to Remember

You will be doing your child no favours if you rush them through books. Children just beginning their reading journey benefit from reading a book several times; this not only helps build the amount of words they can read by sight but the more stories they know, the easier they find it to write creatively. Remember learning to read is not a race. Children learn at different rates just as they learn to walk, dress themselves etc. at different rates. Reading must not be treated as a competition. If children are rushed through the books, they will not achieve the enjoyment and demonstrate the necessary understanding. Books that they find too difficult will soon put them off reading!

Raising the Profile of Reading

During the Spring term 2019 we will be introducing different initiatives, to encourage **all** children to be reading more regularly at home.

We hope that your child will enjoy our wider range of reading opportunities

Yours sincerely

Maxine Michalowski

Home Readers at Heather

Early Reading

Children developing reading skills in EYFS and Year 1 read decodable books linked to the phonic phases. As they become more confident and achieving well within phase 3 and phase 4 they should then slot into choosing from the Blue band slot as well as reading Phase 5 decodable reading books.

Book Band – label cover	Age Related Expectations – by the end of Year:..						
	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
Phase 2 decodable readers							
Phase 3 decodable readers							
Phase 4 decodable readers							
Blue							
Green							
Orange							
Light Blue (turquoise)							
Purple							
Gold							
White							
Lime							
Brown							
Grey							
Plum (blue)							
Cream (red)							
Black							

Light Grey	– Below ARE
Dark Grey	– Within ARE
Black	- Exceeding ARE