

Our Reading Journey...Information for Parents

How does my child learn to read?

Children begin their reading journey by listening to the sounds in the environment! This then builds to more formal phonics learning; hearing the sounds within words and recognizing the different *graphemes* (the letter symbols on the page) and matching them to the *phonemes* (the sounds that the letters make). At Kirklington Primary School we teach Phonics daily and children have lots of opportunities throughout the day to practice their skills.

What do the colours on the reading books mean?

Our reading books are grouped together to be approximately the same level of challenge within a coloured band. They should match your child's phonics knowledge and contain very few (if any) sounds that your child has not yet learnt in their phonics sessions.

More information...Banded Reading Books (<https://www.badgerlearning.co.uk/a-guide-to-book-bands>)

How do I record my child's reading?

You will have received log in information for our online recording system; GoRead. This stores your child's reading journey information; all the way from Reception to Year 6. Your child's class teacher can help you to access the system if you are unsure. Anyone who supports your child with their reading journey will be able to record onto GoRead.

Why does my child need to read their reading book more than once?

There are many reasons why I won't change your child's reading book after the first read! When children are learning to read they first use 'Phonics' (the sounds that letters make in words) to decode (sound out). When they first read a new book, they will probably need to use their decoding skills a lot, and sound out most words. They will be concentrating so much on the 'sounding out' aspect that it is unlikely they will pick up on the actual meaning of the words, sentences, and book itself. So they read it again! As they read the book a few more times, they will start to become more fluent, as they have practiced decoding the words previously. They will start to notice other things, like punctuation, and may even start adding some expression. Your child will then be able to start discussing the story with you and make connections with other stories they've read, or things that have happened in their own lives.

Someone in school will hear your child read their book and make a judgement before changing it for a new book, and we will make a note on GoRead as to how we feel they're doing, and what they need to work on.

What happens when my child has learnt all their phonics?

When your child has completed our school's phonics program, they might be ready for longer books. They will work on building their stamina and reading comprehension skills. This can take a long time, but once children are able to read fluently and can answer a range of questions about what they have read then they will really be adding to their cultural capital each time they read something new! They will be guided and encouraged to read a range of authors and text types.