



Havelock Infant & Junior Schools

Part of the Pathfinder Schools

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Reading Books

During the half term we have re-organised our reading books to link much closer to the sounds the children are learning in their daily phonics sessions.

Books in the early colour stages have been re-sorted according to the sounds they contain. As the children progress in their phonics stages they will move to different book banding colours to match the increase in sounds and graphemes learnt. The books may not always seem to increase in difficulty and length but the range of graphemes they are exposed to in the text is increased as they progress through the colours.

The aim of home reading books is to consolidate knowledge of phonics and build fluency and comprehension skills once children are decoding confidently. Daily practice is essential to ensure that children are rehearsing these key skills. The books that we send home are designed to be read independently in order for our children to see themselves as readers and to have confidence in themselves.

We are in the process of increasing our range of phonically decodable books in order for children to be able to be reading books closely linked to their understanding of phonics so watch out for some new books arriving soon.

Each half term all children in Year R and Year 1 are assessed on their phonics understanding and recall and will be given a colour band to reflect this assessment. These assessments have already taken place in Year 1 before half term and are taking place currently in Year R. Once these have been undertaken your child will be bringing home a reading book using our new colour banding. Please be re-assured that if they have changed colour books this is due to the re-organisation and nothing to be concerned about.

Your child will also bring home a reading for pleasure book weekly which is a book that they have chosen independently and is designed to promote their love of reading. This book is designed to be shared with an adult as it is not matched to their reading ability. Please enjoy sharing this book with your child.

Books in the colour bands from turquoise onwards have remained the same as when children have reached this stage in their reading they are confident at decoding and the focus then becomes on understanding the text.

If you have any queries about reading books, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Rachel Kiziak
Executive Head Teacher
Havelock Infant and Junior Schools

