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Executive Head Mrs C Patton

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Dear Parents/Carers

As you know, we have moved over to the Book Banding Scheme for reading in school. This allows the children to move through coloured bands, related to their reading age, rather than stages. The children on the book banded scheme have now all been moved over to a reading band colour based on their fluency and understanding of a text.

Over the years we have invested heavily in reading scheme books to support children's progress in reading and love for literature. We have spent a long time in school ensuring that all books are clearly and correctly labelled with the appropriate coloured band.

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 are well-motivated as they move on to more challenging texts. As a rough guide, by the end of autumn term in year 2, children working at the average level should be reading books in turquoise or purple bands. Please remember however that children learn in different ways and make progress at different times. It is possible that there may be seven-year-olds on book band red and five-year-olds on book band turquoise. Children should be able to read at least 90% of the words on the page without any problem. If the book is too easy, they can become bored. If it's too difficult, they can become frustrated, and may have to concentrate so hard on reading the words that they lose the enjoyment of understanding the story.

Things to Remember:

- Listen to your child read every day.
- Little and often is more beneficial than a long session once a week.
- 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.
- Shared reading with your child is also encouraged.
- Reading for pleasure helps to develop a love of reading and encourages children to pick a book up independently.

Thank you for your continued support strengthening Griffin Primary School's reading culture. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Regards,

Mrs Z Mitchell
(Reading Leader)

Guide to Book Banding

Lilac Book Band

Wordless books tell a story through pictures alone. They help children to develop speaking and listening skills through creating and telling stories. Your child is just beginning to discover the excitement of books. Although these books have no words, they are an important introduction to reading. Please encourage your child to:

- Look at the pages in order and talk about what is happening on the left hand page before the right hand page.
- Talk about what is happening on each page, rather than just talking about what they see in each picture.
- Tell you who or what the book is about.

Pink Book Band

Pink level is the very first level of reading books which has words. The number of words increases slightly as your child progresses through the reading level. This means that children are motivated to read the book because they are already familiar with the characters and interested in their adventures.

Red Book Band

Red level books have a slightly increased number of words, an increase from eight to twelve pages and slightly more complex story lines. The growing complexity in the story lines is reinforced through the development of inference and prediction using visual literacy. All the books introduce new sets of characters which are revisited throughout the level.

Yellow Book Band

Non-fiction titles at this level build on children's interests and encourage discussion around the high-quality photographs. New learning in Yellow level books includes a slightly increased number of words and a move away from familiar experiences. Yellow books require some inferencing skills from the reader, e.g. for humour, and have more variation in sentence structure, including sentences with more than one clause.

Blue Book Band

Blue level books have a slightly increased number of words and some variation in sentence beginnings. They use a variety of punctuation. The story lines are more complex, including more than one event, and the stories are less dependent on picture cues.

Green Book Band

The number of words increases slightly in Green level books. Stories have a wider variety of characters and events which develop over a number of pages. Sentences may include lists of things or actions, and adverbs are used frequently to begin sentences. The books begin to use capital letters to support reading with expression. The growing complexity in the story lines is reinforced through the development of inference and prediction using visual literacy.

Orange Book Band

At Orange level, the page count increases from around 16 pages to 24 pages to challenge and encourage reading stamina. There is an increased use of dialogue to encourage reading

with expression. Orange Level books introduce a variety of sentences (use of 'if', 'so' and 'because') and include italics to show emphasis. Slightly more literary language is used. Children are increasingly encouraged to infer meaning from the text in order to gain full enjoyment from the story.

Turquoise Book Band

Turquoise level books include an increasing range of adjectives and more descriptive verbs to replace 'said'. There is an increased proportion of space allocated to print rather than pictures. Turquoise level books include words chosen for appropriateness and impact rather than decodability, with more extended descriptions. Paragraphs begin to develop, and more unusual and challenging vocabulary is included.

Purple Book Band

Purple level books include an increased proportion of longer sentences, with a more challenging vocabulary. Some Purple books have short chapters to challenge and encourage reading stamina. Purple level books include longer and more varied sentences with the inclusion of conjunctions such as 'and' and 'when'. Story features such as plot, character and setting are developed in more detail, and the text in the non-fiction books is presented in a variety of ways.

Gold Book Band

Gold level books include more sophisticated and challenging vocabulary, including word play and the introduction of figurative language. Some Gold books have longer chapters for more sustained reading. Children reading at this level are confident independent readers who can tackle increasingly complex language, story structures and text layout. However, books have been carefully levelled to ensure success, even at this level, and include motivating texts with just the right level of challenge to encourage children to maintain their progress.

White Book Band

In White level books there is a more sophisticated use of narrative voice. Clauses in longer sentences are separated by commas to encourage developing intonation. Some books have longer chapters for more sustained reading. The stories included at White level encourage children to empathise with the characters and consider why they behave as they do, and how they change during the course of the story. The non-fiction books are divided into sections that require more sustained reading and there is increased challenge in the layout of the information.

Lime Book Band

Lime level books include a widening range of writing styles and an increased variation in sentence structure, including -ing clauses and longer sentences with more than two clauses. Children reading at Lime level are able to interpret more sophisticated word plays and puns. The narrator's voice in a fiction story may be distinguished from the characters' voice through figurative, idiomatic and literary language. The story is often told through dialogue and action to 'show' instead of 'tell' as the plot develops.

Brown Book Band

At this level, they should be able to:

- interpret more sophisticated word-play and puns
- distinguish the narrator's voice in a fiction story from the characters' voices through figurative, idiomatic and literary language
- understand a story that is told through dialogue and action to 'show' instead of 'tell' the plot

Grey Book Band

Children reading at Grey level will be able to interpret more sophisticated word-play and puns. At this level, they should be able to:

- explain a character's motivations
- discuss the points of view of the character and the narrator
- better understand a range of narration styles

Dark Blue Book Band

Children reading at Dark Blue level will be able to gather information from more than one place in the text and use inference based on what is shown rather than being told. This allows for greater complexity in building character and setting.

Burgundy level

Children reading at Red level will be able to synthesise information from different places in a text. They are beginning to recognise how layers of meaning allow for the build-up of humour or tension and can discuss how the author has achieved the effects.

Black/Free Readers

Books might have chapters. Children read silently with confidence and perseverance. A wide variety of longer, more demanding texts, usually with around 30 - 50 pages.