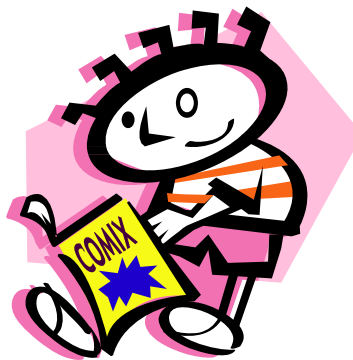




Reading at Hazel Wood
and how you can help at home

Information about our reading books





Book band system

What are the advantages of our book band system?

- It provides a clear progression of skills that children need to learn in order to become proficient readers
- It provides a wide selection of books, both fiction and non-fiction, labelled with either an **S** or **C**

S - these books are designed to be shared with your child, with the adult taking the leading role reading to the child and talking about the story

C - books pitched at a level which your child can read

Banded books follow this order:

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1. Pink | 7. Turquoise |
| 2. Red | 8. Purple |
| 3. Yellow | 9. Gold |
| 4. Blue | 10. White |
| 5. Green | 11. Lime |
| 6. Orange | |

Children in Early Years

For children in our Reception classes, we do not give them a specific book band level. We encourage the children to read a wide variety of books in an effort to engender a love of reading. Once they have gained a repertoire of reading skills, they are then able to read books independently as they begin Year 1.

How does the system work at Hazel Wood?



- Children are encouraged to change their book independently every day in school. It is important that your child brings home books with the correct colour band. Therefore, if you find your child is not bringing home the right books, please remind them to look more carefully at the stickers when making their selection and let your child's teacher know so that they can provide additional support at book changing time.
- The book needs to be kept in the book bag, along with the reading diary. The book bag needs to be brought into school everyday.
- You will receive a flyer as your child moves onto each level. This clearly sets out the skills your child needs to develop, which we will be working on in school and which you can support your child with at home.
- We focus on teaching skills when reading with your child. Initially we read 1:1. When the children become more confident readers they read in small groups
- Children learn to read at different speeds - they may make a lot of progress, and then spend several weeks, or months, consolidating their knowledge. This may mean they remain on the same colour band for a while. Do not worry if this is the case
- When we are deciding whether a child needs to move onto the next level, we follow a detailed criterion that looks at both their ability to 'read' the words on the page and their comprehension skills. Both of these must develop before a child is able to access more challenging texts

Other reading books to take home

- When children have sufficient reading skills to access more text on their own, well into 'red' band, they will bring home an Oxford Reading Tree (ORT) book as well.

This reading scheme is designed to help children practice skills including looking for picture clues, sounding out words and learning words by sight. These books have repetitive text, simple storylines and familiar characters in order to enable the children to practise skills and improve reading.

ORT books should only form part of the reading 'diet' for the children so books will be changed weekly to enable opportunity for the children to enjoy other books too.

Don't buy these books for your child. It is better to spend the time visiting the library or buying lovely story books to read and talk about together.

How to help at home

- **Reading little and often is better.** If your child is tired, read to them as this is as important as them reading to you.
- Encourage your child to work out new words themselves using clues in the pictures, by sounding out and by thinking what would make sense. It is sometimes better to give them the word if the flow of the story becomes too broken and also if they have no chance of working it out themselves.
- Spend time looking at the pictures before reading to pick up hints about new vocabulary that may be introduced.

Prompts to support reading at home:

Check the picture.

Does that make sense?

Does that look/sound right?

You said...Can we say it that way?

You said... Does that make sense?

Try that again and think what would make sense?

Do you know a word that starts/ends with those letters?

What do you know that might help you?

What can you look at to help yourself?



Prompts to support self-correcting:

I liked the way you worked that out.

You're nearly right, try that again.

Something wasn't quite right, try that again.

Can you use 'Fred talk' to sound that out?

