



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

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Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Wednesday 5th January 2022

IMPORTANT - CHANGES TO HOME READING

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have begun to redevelop the reading provision at school. This year we are really focussing on how we teach reading. With the generous support of the FOSJ, we previously invested in a new government approved reading scheme to help pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 develop fluent and confident decoding skills, as well as an understanding of what they are reading. The scheme, called Read Write Inc, ensures that the books which your child reads at home directly relate to the sounds (phonics) which they learn in class through phonics lessons and guided reading sessions.

Your child will be coming home with a phonics book if they are on the Read Write Inc phonics scheme. This will either be a fiction or non-fiction book. These books compliment the sounds and storybooks they will be reading in their phonics and reading sessions in school but the colour system is different from what you may be used to. They will keep this book until their next guided reading session and will be expected to read it each day and develop their fluency. In order to develop not only their decoding but their fluency and comprehension skills, they need to keep the same book for the week so they can read it several times. This approach ensures that children are successful when they apply existing phonic knowledge to the text. They do not have to resort to guessing or using other inefficient "clues" such as the picture or the grammatical context. This will increase fluency when reading and with our Read Write Inc books they should be able to read at 95% fluency. Children will need to read the book several times, both at home and in school, before moving onto the next book. The decodable reading books have letters and words to practise inside the front cover too. Once they have decoded the words and can read it fluently, please use the questions at the back in order to develop their understanding. Please ensure that you record the name of the book and the dates on which the book was read in their Reading Records. This cycle will be repeated each week. In order for this program to work, the children must have their reading packs in school every day. Your child may be sent home with additional green and red words that they may need to practise,





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recap or learn. In some circumstances, for example, if your child has not moved through the next phase of the phonics scheme when they are assessed, they may have the same book to reinforce previous learning and build up fluency. We need to ensure that your child is completely confident with all of the letters and words in the book, quickly identify any gaps and then they will continue reading books matched to their current phonic phase. Repetition of these activities helps to build confidence and ultimately a love of reading.

How do we decide which book your child has?

At the beginning of each half term, your child's phonics and reading is assessed. The intention of the Read Write Inc scheme is that the reading, both in school and at home, is appropriately challenging and to the level appropriate for your child. Further assessments will take place at the end of every term in whole class assessments to assess comprehension. Based upon the results the book colour for your child may be changed. If we notice that your child is excelling at the work in class, and/or that they need more challenge, then we may change their book colour mid-term.

Colours and Book Bands

Please do not focus on the Read Write Inc colour band as they have their own colour band system, which does not match our old colour band system. If your child is on a yellow band for Read Write Inc then it does not mean that they have suddenly regressed by a year. Equally, if they are on a purple band for Read Write Inc then it does not mean that they have suddenly progressed by a year. Your child may now be coming home with just a Read Write Inc book rather than a colour banded book.

What happens after Read Write Inc?

For those children who have completed the Read Write Inc scheme, they will move onto the higher stages of our existing reading scheme which begins with Gold. At this stage, in order to develop their independence, pupils will be asked to choose their own reading book from their particular book band. As pupils progress onto free-reading they will still be able to access support when making their book choices.





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Reading for Pleasure

We are so fortunate to have access to a broad range of high quality books within our Class Libraries. As well as their phonics books, or banded book if off of the scheme the children will be able to take home a book from the class library to enjoy. This will need to be returned as it will be changed with their guided reading books. We want pupils to be reading picture books, wordless picture books, poetry, traditional tales, graphic novels, fiction and non-fiction. Whilst their Read Write Inc 'Book Bag' book will help develop fluent decoding and understanding, it is very important that they have a broad and rich literary diet. Please record this reading in their Reading Record too. Showing that you value reading, and having enjoyable reading experiences, will help nurture your child.

Missing or Lost Books

As stated earlier, FOSJ have spent a lot of money on the Read Write Inc books. We understand that accidents do happen, and sometimes books are lost, but we need to replace each damaged or lost book. In such circumstances, please inform the School Office about the name of the book which has been lost/damaged and if possible add a voluntary donation of £5.00 to cover the cost of a replacement book.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Hayley Jones

