



**CHRIST CHURCH CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

As you may be aware, we have been examining our reading schemes in line with current research on helping children to develop their reading abilities. This is an ongoing process, but the first stage is complete. This has involved amalgamating all of the different reading schemes that we have in school into one leveled system.

Each book your child brings home will now have a sticker on the back with a number on it. Please understand that these are not National Curriculum levels, but they are nationally recognised as progressive stages in reading development. There are many more levels within our new reading framework which will help us to support your children in a more specific way. Your child will choose their own book from within that level, until the teacher feels they are ready to move onto the next. They will then be assessed by the teacher on how well they can read, re-tell and understand the books at their level. The teacher will then tell your child which level to move onto next.

If a child is not quite ready to move on, they may be asked to choose from a colour box of enrichment books. These will have stickers showing the colour level rather than a number. These colour levels are parallel to the reading levels.

Your child may choose to read the same book twice if they have enjoyed it. This is fine as a thorough knowledge of a book will help their understanding of story structures. It is good to have some stories that we know 'off by heart'.

These changes mean that a child will not automatically move to the next level if they have finished a list of books in the scheme, rather they will move on when their reading ability and understanding have developed to the next phase. The teachers will judge this from hearing your child read individually, from information given to them by other adults who listen to your child read (including yourselves) and from other reading that is done in the classroom, such as guided reading.

The emphasis on these changes is the understanding that is shown by a child whilst reading and their ability to re-tell the main points of a story or information text. After all, that is what reading is all about. This means that after reading a book your child may be asked to complete an activity related to that book or to answer questions about it. This may be done during the school day or sent home as homework. The more that you talk to your children about what they are reading, the easier they will find this. In this way we are emphasizing understanding (comprehension) and not just reading aloud.

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When your child is a competent reader and shows a depth of understanding, they will become a 'free reader'. This means that they can choose books from school, home or the local library to read. We would encourage them to read a mixture of fiction, non-fiction and poetry at this time as they are still developing their literary tastes! As a result, we will be trialing the idea of a 'reading passport' in to help your children with their free choices and guide them towards appropriate books for their age group. These may also have links to our current classroom themes and topics. You will not need to write every time you hear your child read, if they are a free reader, but will need to sign off that they have been read. We will be trialing the reading passport in some classes initially and would be happy to have your feedback.

It is still important to hear your child read aloud sometimes, even at the highest levels as this helps develop fluency, understanding and expression.

I hope this gives you an outline of the changes that we are making. If you have any questions please feel free to ask your child's class teacher.

I am also happy to hold a reading workshop to explain these changes further and demonstrate ways in which you can support your child's reading development at any level, if there is enough interest.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together we can support the learning of our children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Haigh
(Literacy Co-ordinator)

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 Yes, I would be interested in attending a reading workshop.

I would prefer it to be held... during the school day/ straight after school/ later in the evening.

Name.....

Pupil(s) Year group.....