



Whole School Reading Approach at Courthill

At Courthill it is paramount that we give your child the best possible start to early reading. We aim to foster and inspire a lifelong 'love of reading' in your child and do this in a variety of ways in school, from special class 'Must Read' books, to celebrating World Book day, to class story time and much more. Children take home special 'Love of Reading' books on a weekly basis as well as 'Book Band' books, which are very carefully matched the sounds that your child knows.

Love of Reading Books

'Love of Reading' books are books for you to *share* with your child. This will mean you reading it to them or with them, and helping them with unfamiliar words. These books will certainly inspire a family discussion! We have already invested over £6,000 into both 'Love of Reading' books and 'Book Band' books and will continue to invest in these. Children have the opportunity to change their 'Love of Reading' book on a weekly basis. These books are identifiable as they have a black sticker on them. Your child will choose these books from their class book corner and bring them home. Of course, throughout the week you are also welcome to read and share library books or any others that you may have at home!

Book Band Books

Book Band Books are for your child to ***practise*** specific phonic sounds that they ***already know***. Your child's teacher or TA will individually select a book that they know your child will have ***complete success*** in reading. They should not be struggling with new sounds, rather, practising ones they are familiar with.

All Book Band books have been carefully read and levelled by members of staff. Each book has a sticker on the back detailing the sounds that are focused on in the text as well as any words that might be new to your child. These are under 'Words to Pre-teach'. All this means is you will need to have a practice of these (few) words with your child prior to reading and help them read them when they come across them in the text.

Example sticker:

Pink B - Phase 2 – Set 5

Sounds: *h b f ff l ll ss*

Pre-teach: *buzz*

Each colour band (up to green books) is divided into A, B (Pink only) and C books and then into sets within those bands. They are specifically aligned with phonic sounds in the order that your child will learn them and ensure that no matter which publication the book is from, the level is the same.

Whilst working through phonic phases 2 to 5, your child will be encouraged to re-read book band books in the phonics set they are working on. Re-reading books that your child has **complete success** in reading builds their confidence and helps to ensure sounds that they have learnt are transferred to their long term memory. By re-reading the texts in the set they will also be building their vocabulary and sight words through the pre-teach vocabulary. They might re-read the same book a couple of times before changing it and / or they might re-read it again whilst working within that set. Practising and re-reading books with the phonic sounds your child knows will support them in their journey to becoming a fluent reader more quickly.

Reading Records/Logs

Please write in your child's reading log every time you read with them. Our expectation is that you read with your child daily. Your child's reading log needs to come into school on a Friday and will be returned to you on a Monday with any teacher or TA comments enclosed. Teachers will make it clear when your child is ready to change to a new set / colour book band.

We hope this handout has been helpful. If you have any further questions about reading, please see your class teacher.

Best wishes,
Mrs Kazimirow and Mrs Wood
English Leaders