

3 January 2024

Headteacher - Tony Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support with reading so far this year. We are making some adaptations to reading in Year 4 and wanted to inform you of how you can continue to support your child's reading at home.

To promote engagement in reading, we have recently purchased lots of fantastic new reading books for Year 4. Your child will have brought home their new book this week. They will now keep this book until it is changed by the class teacher.

In school, we will continue to hear each child read at least once a week as part of our guided reading sessions. Once your child is ready, they will progress up the reading colour bands as they do currently, until they are a fluent reader. All children have a guided reading book. This may be a short chapter book if they are a fluent reader.

It is vital that your child brings their school reading book and their reading record with them to school **every day**. We will not be able to send home a new book until the previous one has been handed in.

Additionally, if any books are lost or badly damaged, you will be required to pay for a replacement. This is approximately £7 per book.

To support your child's reading at home, you must hear them read from their school reading book **at least three times each week**. Your child may be asked to read up to a certain point before their next guided reading session and it is very important you support them in doing so. Your child may struggle in lessons if the reading is not completed with an adult at home. When you have read with your child, please write a comment in their reading record.

Your child will also have a school library book which they are encouraged to read as often as possible at home. However, please do prioritise the school reading book when hearing your child read. This may mean reading the same text more than once, as this is very beneficial when developing reading fluency, including reading with accurate intonation and expression. A child is considered to be reading a text fluently when they can accurately read 9 out of every 10 words.

Even if your child is a fluent reader, they will benefit from reading aloud to an adult at least three times each week.

Below are the Big Cat colour bands which we use in Year 4. We expect children to be fluent readers by the end of Year 4.

Purple	Gold	White	Lime	Copper	Topaz	Ruby	Emerald	Fluent Reader
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Thank you for your continued support in your child's reading journey.

The Year 4 team