

8th October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Reading is a very important part of our daily lives; it is a skill we need to access the world around us. At Branfil, we provide children with many rich opportunities for them to read, and listen, to quality books. Each class has a 'Star Reader' chart to keep track of how many times the children are reading at home. We expect them to read at least five times a week. The children achieving this are then awarded the corresponding number of house points.

Reading Books

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 will have a banded Oxford Reading Tree book as their main reading book and then will choose a book of their choice from the school library. In Key Stage 2, the children who still need more of a structured reading book will continue with the Oxford Reading Tree books until they complete the coloured bands. They will then progress onto the banded books in the library; making their way through Bronze, Silver and Gold. The content of these should be age appropriate and that is why we suggest that Bronze is for Year 3, Silver for Years 4/5 and Gold for Years 5/6. Class teachers will assess when each child is ready to move onto the next colour.

Children do not always need to read their banded school book at home, they can read any book of their choice or even have a book read to them. Children of any age benefit from hearing a more experienced reader read a wonderful book; they are exposed to higher level vocabulary and hear the effect of great expression.

Books are not the only reading that counts towards a read. Children should be encouraged to read a wider range of texts. Examples of texts that can read at home are:

- A TV guide
- Websites used for researching home learning
- Menus at a restaurant
- Newspapers and magazines

What does good reading look like?

Reading through a different book every day and moving up the bands quickly is not always a representative of a good reader. Children need to be able to read fluently. This means they can read the words and sentences without having to stop to use their phonic skills to sound out the words. It also means that children are able to adjust their reading to create meaning, for example, being able to read with expression and choosing when to whisper or shout certain words or phrases; knowing when to slow the pace down to build tension or to speed up when there is adventure or excitement. To many children, this does not come naturally on the first reading of a text because they are focusing on decoding words.

Our aim at Branfil is for every child to love reading; please help us to make this a reality by supporting your child's reading at home. If you would like to know more about how to support your child with reading, then please join us at our reading workshops which will take place in November.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tania White
Reading Leader