



Downlands Reading in KS1 April 2023

The Department for Education recommends that schools adopt a validated phonics scheme. The DFE state:
By ensuring high-quality phonics teaching the government wants to improve literacy levels to:

- ***give all children a solid base upon which to build as they progress through school.***
- ***help children to develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information.***

Ofsted state that children should be able to read 90% of the book they have independently.

Latest Changes to reading at Downlands

At Downlands, staff have trained in **Sounds-Write** which is a validated systematic synthetic phonics program used by other primary schools in Blandford. We have purchased new reading books which align with the Sounds-Write program, being totally decodable using the phonics taught.

Reading scheme books held by the school have been audited and organised to enable children to independently change their own phonics reading book. Children will now have **one reading book in their book bag** to practise the skills taught during phonics in school from a book that closely matches the sounds they know. Children should read each book at least two times before changing it in school. Early readers will no longer bring home a colour band book. As children become more proficient readers in Year 2, they will return to the colour bands, starting at the purple level (or continue if already reading at this level). Children reading the colour band books from purple level need only read each book once. Some children will no longer be on the reading scheme and are classed as free readers. All children should be able to talk about the text and answer questions about what they have read.

Parents and guardians can help by carefully recording the following information in their child's reading log (usually an exercise book with a green cover): book title, date, 1st or 2nd read (depending on level), page number to read next or finished at.

Having invested a significant amount on purchasing new reading books in line with the latest research on the teaching of early reading, some of these precious new books have already been damaged, defaced or lost already. Please note that parents may be asked for contributions to replace damaged, defaced or lost books.

Please help us take care of our books - many thanks