

## The Teaching of Reading at The Bellbird

At The Bellbird Primary School, teachers make explicit the links between reading, writing, speaking and listening. A range of fiction and non-fiction texts are available to the children and the notion of everyone a reader is promoted across the school. Some reading scheme books are banded from Lilac to Lime/brown to support children and teachers when selecting reading material. Following the Lime/Brown band, children move onto the Star Reading programme. Where a book has a black sticker alongside the colour band, this indicates that the book is suitable in content for a child who is 10+ years

Throughout the year, events are planned to promote reading for pleasure in the school community. These events include dress up days linked to authors, activities linked to World Book Day, author visits and the Cambridgeshire Read it Again award.

Teachers plan and teach the full range of reading skills. At the early stages of reading, the children are taught to decode texts by following a synthetic phonics programme (Letters and Sounds).

Teachers use a range of assessment information to allocate a colour band to each child. The colour bands are the reading bands recommended by the Institute of Education in London and are used by most commercially available reading schemes.

Parents are expected to share books with their children and hear their children read at home. Parents are also expected to make a written comment in the school reading record. Once the book has been signed the child will be able to select a new book from the appropriate box. Information sessions for parents take place throughout the year and parents are encouraged to come into school to support teachers with one to one reading.

If a book is lost or damaged, a letter will be sent home requesting that the child's parents or carers make a contribution towards the cost of replacing the book. School reading books are placed inside a plastic zip wallet which is then placed inside a book bag. All teaching staff will encourage children to treat books with care and respect.

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