

Reading Scheme Books at Crossways

Parent Information Guide

Reading underpins the whole curriculum throughout the Early Years and the Primary Phase, therefore reading fluently with good comprehension is essential as all curriculum subjects rely on this.

Children learn to read by using their knowledge of challenge words, sight vocabulary and phonics. Children need to know all taught phonemes to access words in particular book bands. After these skills are learnt, children begin to pick up fluency, new vocabulary and apply comprehension to increase their reading ability. Fluency is the ability to read aloud with natural rhythm and expression, recognising or decoding words accurately whilst constructing meaning.

Book banding allows children to select texts from a gradient of challenge. At Crossways through the use of the PM benchmarking assessment, teachers have thoroughly assessed your child's reading accuracy which is matched to their retelling and comprehension skills.

The questions are progressive and go from literal comprehension, inferential comprehension, applied knowledge questioning and vocabulary questions.

The Crossways Schools Book Banding Colours

Lilac Band

Lilac band books are mainly wordless books that tell a story through pictures alone. They help children to develop speaking and listening skills through creating and telling stories.

Pink Band

Pink band is the very first level of reading books which has combinations of words. The number of words increases slightly as your child progresses through the reading level.

Red Band

Red band books have a slightly increased number of words, an increase in the number of pages and slightly more complex story lines. The growing complexity in the story lines begins to be reinforced through the development of inference and prediction using visual literacy.

Yellow Band

New learning in Yellow band books includes a slightly increased number of words and a move away from familiar experiences. Yellow books require the reader to deploy some inference skills, e.g. for humour, and have more variation in sentence structure, including sentences with more than one clause.

Blue Band

Blue band books have a slightly increased number of words and some variation in sentence beginnings. They may use ellipses and other punctuation. The story lines are more complex, including more than one event, and the stories are less dependent on picture cues.

Green Band

The number of words increases slightly in Green band books. Stories have a wider variety of characters and events which develop over a number of pages. Sentences may include lists of things or actions, and adverbs are used frequently to begin sentences. The growing complexity in the story lines is reinforced through the development of inference and prediction using visual literacy.

Orange Band

At Orange band, the page count increases to challenge and encourage reading stamina. There is an increased use of dialogue to encourage reading with expression. Orange band books introduce some complex sentences (use of 'if', 'so' and 'because') and can include italics or bold print to show emphasis. Slightly more literary language is used. Children are increasingly encouraged to infer meaning from the text in order to gain full enjoyment from the story.

Turquoise Band

Turquoise band books include an increasing range of adjectives and more descriptive verbs to replace 'said'. Turquoise books include words chosen for appropriateness and impact with more extended descriptions. Paragraphs begin to develop and more unusual and challenging vocabulary is included that cannot always be decoded.

Purple Band

Purple band books include an increased proportion of longer sentences, with a more challenging vocabulary. Some Purple books have short chapters to challenge and encourage reading stamina. Purple books include longer and more complex sentences. Story features such as plot, character and setting are developed in more detail, and the text in the non-fiction books is presented in a variety of ways.

Gold Band

Gold band books include more sophisticated and challenging vocabulary, including word play and the introduction of figurative language. Some Gold books have longer chapters for more sustained reading. Children reading at this band are confident independent readers who can tackle increasingly complex language, story structures and text layout.

White Band

White band books include a more sophisticated use of narrative voice. Clauses in longer sentences are separated by commas to encourage developing intonation. Some books have longer chapters for more sustained reading. The stories at White band encourage children to empathise with the characters and consider why they behave as they do, and how they change during the course of the story. The non-fiction books are divided into sections that require more sustained reading and there is increased challenge in the layout of the information.

Lime Band

Lime band books include a widening range of writing styles and an increased variation in sentence structure, including –ing clauses and longer sentences with more than two clauses. Children reading Lime band books are able to interpret word plays and puns. The narrator's voice in a fiction story may be distinguished from the characters' voice through figurative and literary language. The story is often told through dialogue and action to 'show' instead of 'tell' as the plot develops.

Brown Band

Children reading at Brown band should be able to interpret more sophisticated word-play and puns. Children are required to distinguish the narrator's voice in a fiction story from the characters' voices through figurative and literary language. The story is always told through dialogue and action to 'show' instead of 'tell' the plot to stretch children's understanding.

Grey Band

Children reading at Grey band will be able to interpret more sophisticated word-play and puns. At this stage, they should be able to explain a character's motivations, discuss the points of view of the character and the narrator and have a deeper understanding of a range of narration styles.

Dark Blue Band

Children reading at Dark Blue band will be able to gather information from more than one place in the text and use inference based on what is shown rather than being told. This allows for greater complexity in building character and setting.

Dark Red Band

Children reading at Dark Red band will be able to synthesise information from different places in a text. They are beginning to recognise how layers of meaning allow for the build-up of humour or tension and are able to discuss how the author has achieved the effects. Children should begin to make links and comparisons across books and authors.

Black Band / Black with White Plus

Children reading at this level will be able to infer details within the text in order to understand plot, setting and characterisation. Their fluency will be mature and they will be able to read more sophisticated sentences with the correct intonation when reading aloud drawing on the punctuation and the tone of the narrative. Children can make comprehensive links and comparisons across a variety of books and authors.