

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Here at St John’s we prioritise reading. Every day children have twenty minutes of dedicated daily reading time, where activities take place designed to develop their reading skills and their love of books. Additionally, all students can visit our well-stocked library more than once each week.

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| Book Band Colours (lowest to highest) |
| Blue |
| Green |
| Orange |
| Turquoise |
| Purple |
| Gold |
| White |
| Lime |
| Brown |
| Grey |
| Dark Blue |
| Dark Red |
| Black |

For children’s’ reading skills to progress, they need to be reading material at an appropriate level. Consequently, all our library books have a coloured sticker, assigning them to a book band. We then match each child to a book band colour appropriate to their current reading age and ability. When pupils access the school library, they are expected to choose a book from their specific coloured book band. When the child has shown that their reading has developed enough, they can progress to the next book band colour. The table below shows the book band progression.

We are aware that many of our children are incredibly able readers and for these children we have created a ‘free readers’ option. Children who are reading at dark red or black level are ‘free readers’ and able to read a suitably challenging book of their own if they prefer to.

It is important that children read regularly outside of school. There is a wealth of evidence to suggest that children who regularly read gain higher results in exams and have a lowered risk of mental health issues such as depression and anxiety.

**Consequently, it is expected that every child should read at home for fifteen-twenty minutes at least three times per week, recording this in their planner. It is also expected that a parent/guardian monitors this weekly reading and signs the child’s planner each week to show they have done this. If your child’s planner has not been signed or reading has not taken place, staff will send an epraise message home to ask if this could be done at your earliest convenience.**

Children who read regularly every week for a term receive their choice of reward (they can choose from a small gift, a homework pass or an extra playtime).

If you have any further queries about reading at St John’s please get in touch with me via epraise and I will be more than happy to address any concerns or questions.

Kind regards,

Karen Devey (Head of English)