

## GRESHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL AND NURSERY

### PARENTS' GUIDE TO READING BANDS

At Gresham Village School and Nursery, we consider reading to be the most important skill that children learn in their time with us. Our aim is to enable every child to read fluently and with understanding during their time with us, so they are able to fully access our school curriculum, are equipped for high school and a wider world around them that is full of the written word. We are very aware that being able to read fluently and confidently is an essential skill that opens up the world and our ability to communicate in so many ways.

The Reading Strategy at Gresham Village divides reading into four different phases:

- Pre-phonics or early reading
- The phonics stage
- Developing fluency and comprehension
- Mastering fluency and greater understanding

We regularly assess the children to make sure that they are reading books that are at an appropriate level and give them the degree of challenge they require. You play a vital and invaluable part at every stage in your child's journey through reading; it has been proven that the time you spend on reading at home accelerates your child's progress. You may find the following table useful in understanding your child's progression through our reading bands and how you can help at home.

Stage	Expected year	Band	What we do at school	How parents can support at home
<b>Early phonics</b>	YN-R	Lilac	We share books with the children in groups or individually, such as in story time. As the year progresses, children begin to learn some sounds and put them together to make simple words.	Share a book with your child daily. They will see the words on the page and begin to pick up reading skills even if they cannot actually read the words. There are lots of books to choose from at school, if you need them.
<b>Phonics</b>	YR	Red Green	We continue to share books with the children, such as at booktime or as part of the daily writing lesson.	The children bring home their sound sheet to practise at home. There is a new sound every day. Once they are on green band, they also bring home the Read Write Inc. book that they are reading at school. They should be able to read this confidently to you at home. They will also bring home another book that they have chosen from their reading band. Please hear your child read from both books. If you read daily at home, you will be amazed how your child progresses! Please use the Reading Journal to record what you have done and communicate with us. Please do not stop reading to them- it is important that they are able to listen to texts that are harder to read than the level they are at. If you need an alternative, there are plenty of children's audio books that you can find at the library or online.
	Y1	Purple Pink Orange Yellow	The children begin Read Write Inc., our phonics scheme, which they do four times a week in groups, depending on their speed and ability.	
	Y2	Blue	We hear each child read as often as possible at school and write in their Reading Journal.	
		Grey		
<b>Developing fluency and comprehension</b>	Y3	Turquoise	Again, we read and share books with the whole class in writing lessons and story time. The children also have a growing 'independent' reading time, when they can sit and enjoy their reading book.  The children are grouped for guided reading, when they read a book as a group with an adult at least once a week. The emphasis of this session is on developing the children's fluency, vocabulary and comprehension skills and will typically consist of the children reading aloud in a group, supported by the teacher. They will also have independent reading tasks as part of their reading work for the week.  When children have finished Read Write Inc, they should progress from grey to white band. However, white band can sometimes be too challenging a leap, so we have the three sub-levels, turquoise, dark pink and gold bands to support them.	The children have a book at their reading band colour that they can read at home and at school. It is still important that the children have time to read aloud while they are developing fluency, but by the time they reach lime level, they should be able to read silently for more sustained periods. For this, they will need somewhere that they can read without distractions, including anything electronic!  Again, if you have time, please do not stop reading to them- it is important that they are able to listen to texts that are harder to read than the level they are at. If you need an alternative, there are plenty of children's audio books that can be accessed online or from the library. Each child still has a reading record, so we are able to communicate with each other.
		Dark pink		
		Gold		
		White		
<b>Mastering fluency and greater understanding</b>	Y4	Light blue	In class, the children have a daily reading lesson, which focusses on reading independently for a sustained period and on the skills of inference and deduction.  During the week, the children read independently from a whole class text and have a set of VIPERS questions to answer about the text. These questions focus on skills that develop greater fluency and understanding: Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval and Summarising. The teacher supports the children with their reading.  The children also have the opportunity to read from their own books, that they are also encouraged to read at home.  The class continue with story time through a class reader and the children are exposed to a wealth of good books as a stimulus to writing.	The children in these bands will bring home a reading book at their reading band every day. It would benefit them enormously, if they had space and time to read for more extended periods, ideally for at least 20 minutes every day. They should be able to read without too much intervention, although it is always good to show an interest in what your child is reading and be available to help if they do not understand a word or a part of the story.  Depending on its length, they should read at least a book every fortnight. If they are particularly enjoying an author, a visit to the library or a note to school would definitely be in order, so we can keep their enthusiasm going.
	Y5	Lemon		
	Y6	Burgundy		
	Y6+	Black		