



We are fortunate at Staple Hill Primary School to have a large range of reading books in school that the children read from, as they are developing their reading skills. We have recently invested a great deal of time into re-banding the books in order to match them more accurately with our pupils' reading abilities. This letter will give you information about the book banding process and how we have organised our reading material in school. It will also explain how children have been allocated a book band and why some of the reading material they are bringing home may have changed since last year.

What is book banding?

Home reading books in our school are carefully graded by reading level. This is known as book banding. Each book band has its own colour.

Why is reading material banded?

The books we have in school are given colour bands so that home reading books can be selected from different reading schemes with confidence, knowing that they are the right level for your child. This allows us to acquire reading material from a range of reading schemes meaning we can offer a much greater breadth of reading material to our pupils.

How are children allocated a book band colour?

When children start school, they are given reading books from an appropriate colour band which matches their reading ability. As their reading skills develop, and once they have been exposed to a variety of books from within this colour band, they will progress to the next colour. It is important that children are showing a good level of understanding (comprehension) of the books they are reading as well as being able to read (decode) them fluently before they move to the subsequent book band.

Which band should my child be on?

There are recommended bands which correspond to each year group. These represent the bands which children should be reading within if they are working at age-related expectations in reading. Of course, there will be some children who may not have reading material from a band which corresponds to their current year group. This is because reading bands are decided based on the ability of the child (rather than their age). In order for pupils to develop their reading skills, they must be given reading books which match their reading ability so they can decode well enough to read with some degree of fluency and comprehend what they are reading.

Please feel free to speak with your child's class teacher, should you have any questions about your child's reading levels.

Miss Weldrake

Raising Standards Lead English

The table shows the new coloured banding scheme we have adopted for all children’s reading material, at Staple Hill.

<u>Staple Hill Book Banding Colours</u>		
Reception	Grey	1
	Lilac	1+
	Green	2
	Blue	3
Year 1	Red	4
	Yellow	5
	Orange	6
Year 2	Lime	7
	Brown KS1	8
	Turquoise KS1	9
	Pink KS1	10
	Dark Purple KS1	11
	Indigo KS1	12
Year 3	Brown KS2	8
	Turquoise KS2	9
	Pink KS2	10
	Dark Purple KS2	11
	Indigo KS2	12
	Rust	13
Year 4	Royal Blue	14
	Dark Red	15
Year 5	White	16
	Mauve	17
Year 6	Gold	18
	Cobalt Blue	19
	Black	20
	Free Reading	

Please note that reading material is different for KS1 and KS2 within levels 9-11 (colours turquoise, pink, purple).

The complexity of the text will be the same to allow for children in KS2 who are not yet secure with decoding fluently at upper KS1 standard but the content of the books is more appropriate for KS2 readers in order to maintain their interest.