



## Rankin Readers

At JRS we have developed our own bespoke system of organising reading books from a range of schemes to match the order in which we teach phonics at John Rankin Schools. We hope that the following information answers any questions you may have.

Lilac
Pink
Red
Yellow
Blue
Green
Orange
Turquoise
Purple
Gold
White
Lime

### What order do the colours go in?

Rankin Readers uses the same colours in the same order as the previous system we used in school, from lilac through to lime.

However, the colours are organised differently in terms of the content of the books with a focus on the order in which phonics are taught at JRS. If your child is moving from a different school you may find that there is a difference in which colour band your child starts reading on at JRS.

### Why do we need a new system?

The main difference you may notice is that the books coming home - from levels lilac to orange - are now 'phonetically decodable'. This is a requirement now in Primary schools. The National Curriculum states that at the early stages of learning to read, children need to read books that are closely aligned with their developing phonic knowledge and do not need children to use other strategies to work out words.

### What does phonetically decodable mean?

This means that at each different coloured 'level' your child will be familiar with the sounds and common words used in the book. This should ensure that the children are able to use their phonic knowledge to 'decode' (sound out and blend) to read the text.

For example: Pink Books contain the first sets of sounds we teach split into two different sets. So the books in Pink set P1 contain words that are made using only: s, a, t, p, l, n, d, m, g, o, c and k.

Each coloured level is matched to the phonics covered at each phase and these phases progress through Reception, Year 1 and for some children into Year 2 and even beyond.

### What level would I expect my child to be reading?

Expectations are that **most** children will read through Lilac, Pink, Red and onto Yellow during Reception. Then in Year 1 Yellow, Blue, Green and Orange. Year 2 should expect to move through Turquoise, Purple, Gold, White and some may get onto Lime.

### What happens after Orange?

Once a child has completed the orange level of books, they will have secured their phonics knowledge and be well on their way to becoming a fluent reader. Books from Turquoise through to Lime present the children with more opportunities to further develop their fluency. The books in these levels are increasingly complex texts, which allow children to practise reading using a range of skills for decoding, including their phonics and other skills such as context clues. These books will also help the children to build an increasing vocabulary and practice their comprehension skills.

### **How often will my child change their book?**

As a minimum this will be once a week and may vary depending on the ability and needs of each child. Repetition and re-reading a familiar text is important. Many of our new books also have questions in the back for discussion with your child.

Please note, that in order to be able to bring home a new book, your child will be expected to have returned their previous book to school. The books from the infants, you will notice, have an I marked on the back of the coloured sticker and the books from the juniors a J – we hope that this will help those of you with children in both schools to return books to the correct site.

Please could we make a plea that school reading and library books, as well as reading records, are kept separate to water bottles and lunchboxes. This avoids the risk of water damage to our lovely new books. We are hoping to provide plastic bags to help with this process very soon.

### **What else can we do as parents to support reading?**

Reading to and with your children throughout their years at Primary School is incredibly valuable. There are many benefits to sharing stories together and fostering a love of reading. More information can be found here:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

We hope that this answers your questions. Further details and information on supporting your child's reading are available on our website. Please do speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions or you can email us directly via the office.

Happy reading!

Miss Sophie White - Infant English Lead

Mrs Hannah Murphy - Junior English Lead

