



Exmoor Link Federation

East Anstey Primary School, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9JP

Telephone: 01398 341369

Bishops Nympton Primary School, South Molton, EX36 4PU

Telephone: 01769 550387

Email: bursar@exmoorlink.org

Executive Headteacher: Mr T Gurney

Information regarding reading & phonics

Dear families,

Following updates in recent years to the Department for Education regarding the teaching of phonics, Exmoor Link Federation schools now use a phonics scheme called **Essential Letters and Sounds**. This scheme works alongside a variety of books from Oxford Reading Tree, Project X and Hero Academy. These reading scheme books will support the teaching of and consolidation of phonic knowledge.

Books are banded to guide staff to accurately match children's phonic knowledge with their reading book. Below is a guide showing which book band children should be on based on their phonic knowledge and year group; however, this is just a guide and will depend on each individual child's knowledge and application of phonics.

To support and encourage reading in school, all teachers have made a pledge to read to the children for at least ten minutes a day. Reading is a life-long skill and by promoting the love and enjoyment of this, we hope our children will always enjoy reading for pleasure, therefore we encourage you to also make this pledge at home. The ten minutes can be spent by your child reading to an adult, reading independently or by an adult reading to a child (from a scheme or non-scheme book).

Information to note:

Children will be encouraged to bring home 2 books - one scheme book and one library book of their choice.

Children will have started reading their scheme book at school with an adult before bringing it home.

Each scheme book **should be read 3 times**;

The first read for decoding / accuracy,

The second read for fluency / expression,

The third time for comprehension (being able to talk confidently about what they have read as well as answering questions about the text).

All reading should be recorded by an adult in reading records for KS1 children; however KS2 children can fill in their own reading records, with parents signing it once a week.





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Once children reach the end of the lime book band, they may become 'free readers', giving them the freedom to choose their own reading book from home or the school library; however, there is the option for children to continue on scheme books (Collins Big Cat) after this point. Children may continue on scheme books to support the development and application of their reading skills and to support their confidence as a reader. Teacher judgement alongside formal assessments determine whether children are ready to progress to become a 'free reader'.

Book Band	Phonics Phase	Year Group
Lime	Further consolidation/practising reading skills	Y2 / 3
White	Further consolidation/practising reading skills	Y2
Gold	Phase 6	Y2
Purple	Phase 6	Y1 / 2
Turquoise	Phase 6	Y1
Orange	Phase 5 / 6	Y1
Green	Phase 5	Y1
Blue	Phase 4 / 5	EYFS / Y1
Yellow	Phase 3 / 4	EYFS / Y1
Red	Phase 3	EYFS
Pink	Phase 2	EYFS
Lilac (wordless)		EYFS

If you have any questions about reading at home or at school, please speak to me or your child's class teacher.

Miss Martyn
English Coordinator

