

Home Reading Schemes at GLPNS

Reception and Key Stage One Reading Scheme

The aim of our home reading scheme is to provide parents and children access to appropriately pitched texts so that they have the opportunity to practise the skills of reading at home with the main aim of developing fluency.

It can be a common misconception that if a child can read mostly accurately then the book must be too easy for them and they should move up to the next stage of the reading scheme. However, research tells us that to develop fluency, children should practise with books that they can read with around 95% accuracy so that they can focus on their pace and expression rather than decoding. Research also tells us that repeated reading of texts substantially improves word recognition, speed as well as fluency and therefore we actively encourage pupils to re-read books that are sent home.

By the time children reach the end of Year 2, it is expected that they should be able to confidently read at least 90 words per minute. Once children have become fluent readers, it frees up thinking space to focus on comprehending what they are reading at a deeper level.

With this in mind, most pupils are given or supported to select books that they can read almost wholly independently. These books are changed weekly to provide time for pupils to re-read books to develop fluency.

To help develop their own reader preferences and book-choosing skills, when children become more fluent and move past stage 9, they are invited to choose their book from the 'free-reader' tree in the library to support transition into key stage 2.

Key Stage Two Reading Scheme

The Big Cat reading scheme is designed to be 'real books for real readers' that cover a range of genres and topics across the curriculum. The core aim of these books is to broaden our pupils' reading diet at home and expose them to new and rich vocabulary.

As with KS1, to effectively build fluency, develop comprehension skills and improve vocabulary, children should encounter approximately 5 to 7 new words out of every 100 when reading; the Collins Big Cat scheme ensures pupils can take home age-appropriate books that they are neither too easy nor overly challenging.

Approximate Age	7-8				8-9	9-10	10-11		
Suggested Year Group	Year 2-3		Year 3		Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 6+	
Book Band	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Big Cat Colour	White	Lime	Copper	Topaz	Ruby	Emerald	Sapphire	Diamond	Pearl

Reading feeds pupils' imaginations and opens up a treasure-house of wonder and joy for curious young minds.

Our KS2 home readers are fairly short texts to encourage opportunities for re-reading. Therefore, to ensure that we also develop reading stamina as well as pleasure for reading through free choice, all pupils are expected to read a longer novel alongside their Big Cat book too. These can either be brought in from home or borrowed from their book corner or the school library.

Moving through the reading schemes

Each individual teacher may use their own discretion about how quickly each individual pupil moves through the reading scheme. While we always welcome and consider your feedback in your child's reading diary, please trust their judgement and expertise in this and remember that we are all working towards the same goal to ensure that your child becomes the most successful reader that they can be.

Library books

Each class has an allotted time to visit the library to change their books each week. Whilst they are encouraged to pick books that are appropriately pitched to their reading ability, we very much believe in the 'The Rights of the Reader' and in allowing pupils ownership over the book they choose to read for pleasure as we know that if we nurture this, we are more likely to inspire a generation of life-long readers.

We encourage parents to consider these 'rights' too to help support us in ensuring our pupils view reading as a treat not a chore!

We also believe that that there is no such thing as a child who does not love to read, just a child who just hasn't found the right book yet. To support you in helping your child find the right book, each year group has a list of recommended reads on our school website that we feel will help broaden their reading diet. These lists are compiled from a selection of nationally recommended lists and contain texts that are designed to inspire our pupils, educate them, enrich their vocabulary, challenge their thinking, make them laugh, make them cry and most importantly, teach them to understand, empathise with and value different cultures, traditions and opinions- real or imagined.

For further guidance or recommendations for great children's literature, these may be useful websites:

- <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/>
- <http://justimagine.co.uk/category/discussion-guide>
- <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/book-sorter>
- <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>
- <https://www.booksfortopics.com/>

