

Whitecote Primary School

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Home Reading

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you on changes to our home reading provision that were introduced during the Summer Term last year. Following a review of our reading approach and feedback from staff, children and families, these changes have now been fully embedded across the school. We believe they support children more effectively as they develop as readers and foster a lifelong love of reading.

As part of these changes, children who reach the brown colour band are no longer expected to take home colour-banded reading books. At this stage, they are typically ready for richer and more engaging texts that broaden vocabulary, deepen comprehension and help them discover the joy of reading through books that truly interest them.

Instead, children now have access to a wider range of classic and contemporary novels, as well as an expanded selection of non-fiction texts designed to spark curiosity and maintain enthusiasm for reading. Colour-banded books remain available as an option beyond the brown colour band but have been reduced in number and availability.

We have also made a change to how we celebrate reading at home. The Home Reading Leaderboards in Key Stage 2 no longer focus on children reading at home with their parents. In their place, we have introduced a new reward system that recognises children's reading in a more inclusive and meaningful way, better reflecting their age and interests. The Home Reading Leaderboards continue in EYFS and Key Stage 1, where they remain an effective motivator for younger children and their families.

We would also like families to be aware that the new range of novels and non-fiction books represents a significant investment for the school. Many of these books are considerably more expensive than our previous colour-banded books. If a book is lost or not returned, we will ask for a flat £5 contribution towards the cost of replacement. This helps us to continue providing high-quality reading materials for all children.

These changes reflect our ongoing commitment to creating a reading culture in which every child can discover books they enjoy, build confidence as a reader and develop the habits that lead to lifelong reading. If you have any questions about these updates, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Stead

Headteacher

