



Dear Parents/Carers,

November 2020

Home Reading Books – Book Banding

We have recently undertaken the re-organisation of our home reading books in line with the National Book Banding Scheme. As a result of these changes, you may find that your child's book colour level may have changed or if your child was previously a free reader, they will have been assigned a colour band. Any numbered stages detailed on the books will no longer be used as books are now labelled with a colour sticker instead.

Before half term, class teachers assessed the children's reading skills to determine which colour band is appropriate for each child. Both your child's reading fluency (speed, accuracy and expression) as well as their reading comprehension have been considered. For a child to be an effective reader, they need not only to read the words on the page but also to understand what they have read. Teachers will carefully monitor your child's reading and move them to the next colour band when they are ready.

Every child in the school, up to the most able year 6 readers, have been given a book band colour to ensure that as they progress, they are reading books that continue to provide them with the correct level of challenge, keep them engaged and help them to continuously develop their skills.

By using book banding, the children are not limited to one reading scheme and are able to experience 'real world' books at the right level for them. The children are likely to read a large range of books within each book band, ensuring they have the opportunity to engage with rich vocabulary, different genres and a variety of authors' writing styles.

The banding of all books that we use at QPA has been based on careful research into the phonics level needed to read the book, the vocabulary, the length and structures of the sentences, the punctuation, story styles or nonfiction formats and the text size. It also supports a progression of reading strategies.

Thank you for reading with your child at home. It is such an essential part of their development as a reader and you play a crucial role in nurturing their love of reading.

If you require any further information on Book Banding, please contact us via email or the school office.

Kind regards,

Mrs Simmons
Principal

Queen's Park Academy

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