

Head Teacher: Mr D Barrow

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9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

## READING

**A new year brings a new focus to St John's, which this year is reading.**

In our library, we have lots of amazing new books (which the children will soon be bringing home to share with you) in addition to some new resources for the teaching of reading in school. Each class now has a range of new, very special 'Sparkle Books' to share during story time.

We are also relaunching reading diaries. Please listen to your child and/or encourage them to read and record their reading in their new diaries **every day!** Little and often is proven to have the best results. When six instances of reading have been recorded, the child will receive a stamp in their diary. **Six stamps = a bookmark. Six bookmarks = a special prize.** Competition is a great motivator and we firmly believe in rewarding effort and progress.

As part of this initiative, all children have been re-assessed to ascertain the correct reading colour band for their level of decoding (being able to work out what the words are) and their comprehension (their ability to understand and answer questions on the content). The new curriculum and end-of-key-stage assessments (taken at the end of Years 2 and 6) have become significantly harder, as you may have heard in the media, and there is a much greater focus on comprehension and vocabulary. Our new assessments reflect this, so please do not be concerned if your child is reassessed at a lower colour. This will also be explained to children in class and assembly. Attached is a summary of the bands. Our website has lots of information on how to support your child for each colour band.

We anticipate quick progress with a greater emphasis on guided reading in class every day. However, if you have any concerns or would like more information on book bands, please see your class teacher or Miss Eggleton, our new reading co-ordinator.

**Don't forget our first reading-related whole-school Roald Dahl Day this coming Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September.**

Kind regards,

**Mrs Benarous**  
Assistant Head

## WHAT DO BOOK BAND LEVELS MEAN?

Reading books are graded by difficulty by reading levels known as **book bands**. Each book band has its own colour. The chart below gives an indication of the range of book band levels at which most children will be reading as they progress through primary school.

The chart shows the progress of an 'average' band of children - but no individual child is 'average', so no child makes smooth progress precisely in this way. Children tend to learn in fits and starts – periods of growth followed by periods of consolidation when their progress seems to halt for a while. The periods where you don't see rapid progress may be worrying, especially after a 'growth spurt', but they are important as your child develops confidence in using and applying their newly acquired skills.

If you are ever worried about your child's progress, talk to their teacher.

| Book Band colour | Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| lilac            |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| pink             |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| red              |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| yellow           |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| blue             |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| green            |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| orange           |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| turquoise        |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| purple           |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| gold             |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| white            |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| lime             |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| brown            |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| grey             |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| blue (KS2)       |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| red (KS2)        |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |