

# ST RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Huddersfield Road, Millbrook  
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**Thursday, 19 September 2013**

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Home Reading Books - Book Banding**

We have recently undertaken the re-organisation of our home reading books in line with the *Guided Reading* texts we use in school.

As a result of these changes you may find that your child's book colour level may have changed. This does not represent any decline in their reading level rather, that the types of books in the band are different to before. Your child's reading level will be reassessed regularly through *Guided Reading* sessions to ensure they are reading the correct level book.

### **Information about Book Banding:-**

#### **What is Book Banding?**

Book banding is a national scheme that grades children's reading books according to the difficulty of the text. Each level of book is given a colour.

#### **Why Book Band?**

When a child is learning to read, it is important that they have access to lots of different kinds of books and a wide vocabulary. Most reading schemes have their own core vocabulary and teachers have found that children struggle when they are asked to read something different.

Book banding is designed to help schools grade children's reading book across schemes. Children have access to the variety of stories they need whilst still being supported at the correct reading level.

"May God's love shine in our lives as we care and share and learn together."

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## How are the books levelled?

All publishers grade their scheme to their specifications but the Book Band system is far broader in its levelling. It is based on careful research into the kind of words used in each book, the length of the sentences, punctuation, story style or non-fiction format and text size. It also supports a progression of reading strategies.

## What can I expect?

Your child will initially be assessed for the correct Book Band colour and will bring home books from various schemes within that colour. It may be, because of the broader nature of Book Band levelling, there are books from different levels of the same reading scheme in one colour band. As long as the book is in your child's book band colour, the level is right for them.

## When will my child move to the next colour band?

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. For this to happen, they need to read with 98% accuracy (that is only 2 errors in every 100 words). The school will carefully monitor your child's reading and move them to the next colour band when they are ready.

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 either myself or your child's class teacher.

With kind regards

Miss C. Taylor

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