



Friday 5th March 2021

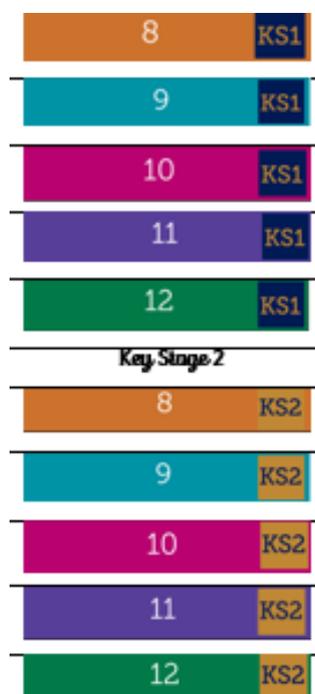
Reading Scheme Revamp Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

During the home-schooling period, as you are aware, we have been revamping the reading scheme we currently had on offer here at Preston Hedges. We have adapted the previous Oxford Reading Tree scheme to a clearer progressive scheme that provides a levelling system instead of colour banding. Any out of date books have been removed and the new scheme has been heavily invested into and bolstered by any other appropriately levelled books we already had, to provide your children with age-appropriate vocabulary and challenging texts that they can enjoy.

In Reception and Year 1, reading scheme books will be sent home that continue to link to our phonics scheme to ensure that your children are exposed to and reading specific sounds that they have been learning about that week, ensuring their reading book is fully decodable. From Year 2 upwards, where phonics is usually secure, the scheme will support children in their reading journey to becoming confident, fluent readers where they are able to fully comprehend challenging and rich texts. Once children reach the end of the reading scheme (level 20), they become a 'free reader' and select their own choice of text from the classroom's separate book selection.

If your child is currently a 'free reader' the likelihood is that they will remain there, but there is a chance that following assessment, they may return to the reading scheme for a short time. Please don't be concerned if this happens, as it will be based on your child's current reading needs.



On the spine of every reaching scheme book is a label that specifies the level of the books. For Reception and Year 1, these levels will be sub-levelled to provide a focus on a specific set of sounds. After level 7, the scheme provides levels 8-12 twice, one for KS1 texts and one for KS2. The scheme is progressive and therefore your children will not move from KS1 Level 12 to KS2 Level 12. Instead, they will progress from KS1 Level 12 typically onto KS2 Level 8.

Please also note that the KS1 and KS2 labelling also doesn't specify the age range of the children who can read those texts e.g. a KS1 child may come home with a KS2 text. As with our previous scheme, your children will receive the level of text that is appropriate for them, enabling fluency along with challenge.

Once the children return, teachers will begin assessing your children's reading ability, and from this, their new reading level will be generated. This has no link to the old reading levels/colours; we will assure the children that regardless of the colour they were on in our previous reading scheme, this is the correct level for them now.

Please bear with us whilst we roll the scheme out – it may be a week or two before your child returns with their reading book as the assessment will take some time, but your child will continue to have access to Oxford Owl to access at home whilst they await their scheme book.



Example labelling for all levels.



Example sub-levelling for phonics scheme



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In addition to their reading scheme text, your child will still receive a 'Reading for Pleasure' book from the Library which is an opportunity for them to read for enjoyment on their own choice of text. These are not labelled, and so can be easily identified compared to a scheme's stickered book.

If you still have any reading scheme books at home, can I please use this time to ask that these are returned with your children on Monday 8th March if you haven't already. These books will be sorted accordingly (where possible), to fit in with our new scheme.

Thank you for your support, and please feel free to speak to your child's class teacher or myself if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Miss Malpas