



Shirley Junior School

Belle Moor Road,
Shirley
Southampton
SO15 5XE

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December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the last year, we have been busy investing in our school's reading provision and have purchased many new books to support our children's reading development. Because of this, we are delighted to share that children will now be able to routinely bring reading books home to practise their reading skills. The online Reading Planets program used since lockdown will no longer be in use and instead children will carry physical books between home and school.

Here is a guide to the reading books we use within Shirley Junior School to support all our readers:

Little Wandle

Provides graded reading books organised into bands which focus on the different phonics phases of KS1.

Focus: Phonics & fluency

For: These books will be provided for those children who are developing their knowledge of phonics as they allow them to practise the phonic sounds within decodable books.

Little Wandle letters and Sounds Revised



The Leading phonics programme
for Letters & Sounds

Phase 1

Phase 2

Phase 3

Phase 4

Phase 5

Level of challenge set by: Class teacher and fully trained TA for teaching phonics.

Headteacher: Mrs. A Hixon BA Hons NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. J Tearle, PGCE





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Reading Planet - Galaxy

Provides graded reading books organised into bands (Galaxies- see below) which cover the whole of KS1. It is structured to ensure progression from one book band to the next, so that it enables children to read books suitable for their level of reading development.

Focus: Fluency and enjoyment of reading

For: Children who need to practise and secure their knowledge and understanding of phonics.

Level of challenge set by: The class teacher.

Reading Galaxy Book Bands:

2	6-7	Purple	8
		Gold	9
		White	10

Reading Planet

Provides graded reading books organised into bands (planets – see below) which cover the whole of Key Stage 2. It is structured to ensure progression from one book band to the next, so that it enables children to read books suitable for their level of reading development. Children will progress by 2-3 bands on average a year.

Focus: Fluency and Reading for Pleasure

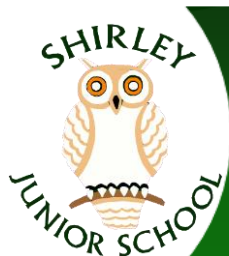
For: All children unless they have been told they are a free reader (normally in Y6)

Level of challenge set by: The class teacher.

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Reading Planet Book Bands:

Year group	Age	Book Band	Reading Planet level
2-3	7-8	Stars/Lime	11
3	7-8	Mercury/Brown	12
		Venus/Brown	13
4	8-9	Earth/Grey	14
		Mars/Grey	15
5	9-10	Jupiter/Blue	16
5-6	10-11	Saturn/ Blue - Red	17
6	10-11	Supernova/ Red+	18

To protect our new reading books and to ensure we can continue to send physical books home, the following system has now been put in place across the school:

- Reading books will be changed once a week in your child's class with a teaching assistant
- Children should re-read their reading book until they are able to read it fluently without mistakes and can answer comprehension questions about its content. Children will be asked to discuss the understanding of their reading book before changing it for a new one.
- Children will be expected to bring their reading book into school every day. They will bring their book home at the end of the school day so they can practise their reading.
- Planners should be used by the children to record their reading at home and complete reading reflections.
- Only when reading books are returned will a new book be issued.
- Any lost books will be charged at £5.

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- Children's reading will be assessed regularly and books will be selected based upon their ability to read with both fluency and understanding.
- We expect every child to have a bookbag in order to protect our books as they are transported between school and home. Larger rucksacks can damage these valuable resources.

Happy reading,

Mrs Davie

Headteacher: Mrs. A Hixon BA Hons NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. J Tearle, PGCE



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