



Decodable Reading Books in FS2 and KS1

At Markeaton Primary School, children learn to read using a Systematic Synthetic Phonics approach. In line with new guidance released by the DfE, children from FS2 to the beginning of Year 2 will bring home books to read to an adult that are entirely decodable, meaning that children will be able to decode or 'sound out' every word. Children will be sent home with one reading book that is matched exactly to their current Phonics knowledge, ensuring that they will only encounter graphemes and common exception words already taught as part of their current Phonics phase.

As children progress through their Phonics phases over FS2, Year 1 and Year 2, their decodable books will change to include all graphemes learned so far, ending with Phase 5 at the beginning of Year 2.

Children will also bring home a second 'sharing' text from our school library. **It is equally important that this book is read to your child by an adult** so that they can widen their vocabulary and gain insight into appropriate use of prosody when reading. Adults can model how to use tone, timing, phrasing, expression and emphasis effectively. Book talk is important when reading the shared text.

Book-talk is the ability to talk about books, developing the confidence to offer ideas and then reshape them in the light of other contributions. It supports speaking & listening, helps children to present their ideas and talk effectively about a book, deepening their understanding, shifting their ideas, thinking together and improving comprehension.

What next? Book Banding from Year 2 onwards

Once children progress beyond decodable texts (after Phase 5), they move onto our banded book scheme so that they can continue to progress in their fluency, inference and comprehension skills to become expert readers who have a passion for reading.

Book Banding is a scheme that grades children's reading books according to the difficulty of the text. Each level of books is given a colour and stickers are used to indicate this. When a child is learning to read beyond applying their knowledge of letter-sound relationships and knowledge of letter patterns to correctly pronounce written words (SSP), it is important that they have access to lots of different kinds of books, encouraging a wide vocabulary. Children have access to the variety they need, whilst still being supported at the correct reading level.

How are the books levelled? All publishers grade their scheme to their specification but the Book Band system is 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.

What can I expect? Your child will be bringing home books from various schemes within the Book Band colour allocated to them by their class teacher. It may be, because of the broader nature of Book Band levelling, that there are books from different levels of the same reading scheme in one colour band. If the book is in your child's book band colour, the level is right for them. For a child to be an effective reader, they need to not only read the words on the page but also understand what they have read and read with stamina using fluency and expression. The class teacher will carefully monitor your child's reading and move them on to the next colour band when they are ready.