



Reading in Year 3

Year 3 is one of the most important years in a child's reading journey. Children are beginning to read fluently and independently, are starting to make choices about what they would like to read and are able to differentiate between reading for pleasure and purpose. It is our aim that all children leave Year 3 with a love of books, a desire to read and the ability to do so independently.

Book Band Readers

Children arrive in Year 3 reading on a 'book band' or reading level that has followed them from Year 2. It is a continuation of the same system and allows the transition between Key Stage 1 and 2 to be as smooth as possible.

At the start of Year 3, all children are heard reading by an adult at least once a week. This is usually on the same day each week. On this day, children will also have their reading books changed and reading records signed.

Adults follow the school reading progression to decide whether children need to stay on their current book band or are ready to move up.

The more children are encouraged to read aloud at home, the quicker their progress. The reading record is the tool adults in school use to communicate with parents and any reading the children do at home or at school should be recorded in it.

[Click here to see the reading progression document.](#)

[Click here to see the book band levels progression.](#)

[Click here for recommended Year 3 reads!](#)

Free Readers

When children reach book band 13 and are confident and fluent readers, their next step is to become a free reader.

Becoming a free reader puts more emphasis on children themselves. Children are asked to choose their own reading books from the school library, classroom shelf or home, with the support of an adult in school should they need it, particularly at the start.

At this point, children should be writing in their reading record themselves. It becomes something they write in all the time and goes between home and school daily. It may be as simple as writing how many pages were read that day.

If children read aloud to parents at home, parents are still welcome to write in the reading record.

Reading aloud at school happens less once a child becomes a free reader and the focus moves onto reading quietly; however, whenever possible, children will have the opportunity to read aloud to an adult.

Children should hand in their reading record every Friday for it to be signed by an adult in school.



Reading in Year 3

FAQ's

How often should my child read at home?

Book Band Readers	Free Readers
We recommend listening to your child read at least 3 times a week.	We recommend encouraging your child to read to themselves every night and listening to them read to you at least once a week.

What if my child isn't engaging with the book they have?

Book Band Readers	Free Readers
Pop a note in their reading record for the adult to change it. Try to read it to them and encourage them to comprehend as you do this.	Try some shared reading together. If they really aren't a fan, encourage them to brainstorm ideas for books they would like to read and challenge them to find one in the library. Pop a note in their reading record too!

Can my child read more than one book at once?

Book Band Readers	Free Readers
Yes! Your child will have at least 2 book band books sent home. They may also have their own book in their drawer at school that they read in the classroom to themselves- this needs to be a book they can access independently. They may also have a book they share with you at home! At this point though, the book banded reading books are what is being tracked in their record.	Yes! Your child should have a book they read at school and home. This might be the same book if they are able to take it to and from school everyday. Or they may choose to have one at school and another at home. How this works is up to them- as long as they are consistently reading the same books.

My child is finding reading really tricky. Do you offer any interventions to help them?

- Yes! If a child is struggling on the book bands and we feel they could benefit from a more intensive reading approach, they may do one of three things.
- Follow our Little Wandle catch up sessions. This is for children who are finding decoding and blending a challenge and may benefit from revisiting some phonics teaching from KS1
 - Enrol in Rapid Reading. This is a tailored 6 week intervention that levels children, offers them reading books that they can access online at home and ensures they read with adults in school at least 3x a week.
 - Increase their adult reading sessions in school whilst keeping them on the book banded system. This is for children who just need more rehearsal at reading aloud to gain confidence.