

# Gossops Green Primary School

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Principal: Mrs S Dunne Deputy Principal: Mr M Warwick



Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## RE: RWI Book Bag Books

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today your child in Year 1 and 2 will take home a Read Write Inc. Book Bag Book. Please support your child to read these books. We have found the children who read at home 5 times a week – especially these decodable books that are pitched for your child's reading ability – are more likely to make at least expected progress in reading across the year.

This should be returned in its wallet every **Thursday** to allow staff time to change the books ready to hand out again on **Friday**. If your child does not return the book by Friday, they will not be issued a new book.

If we find the book to be lost or damaged, we will be asking for a contribution towards a replacement. Last year 47 books were damaged and several missing. This equates to over **£264** to replace these books and unfortunately, we have been unable to replace many of them so far due to insufficient contributions.

Below is some key information about these books and the expectations around using them. For children new to Gossops Green Primary, this will be new information, and a reminder for parents in EYFS and KS1 last year:



### Why does my child have this colour book?

Children have regular phonics assessments to check the progress of their sound knowledge for Set 1, 2 and 3. We also assess their ability to orally blend, to read words using 'Fred Talk' before blending the word and saying it, and speedy reading/fluency. Each child is then grouped with children of the same level to learn new sounds and words, revise taught sounds and words, write these words, and read books that include previously taught sounds and words. Their Book Bag Book closely matches the level of Storybook they have been learning all week in their daily phonics lessons.

### When should my child return this book to school?

Books should be in school every day (because staff will hear children read throughout the week) and they will be collected in on a **Thursday morning**.

### When will my child receive a new book?

New books will be given out on a **Friday**. Children may choose to read a different book on a Thursday or use this time to complete their other home-learning tasks.

'Special Friends'  
'Fred Talk'  
'Say the Word'



### The book has been lost or damaged. What should I do next?

£1000s of pounds have gone in to purchasing these new books and we have even provided wallets for added protection from bending or water damage because we know that accidents happen. We ask for a **£5** contribution towards lost or damaged books and wallets. To ensure all children in each group can access the same book, it is essential that we always have enough copies – and while we will set aside budget regularly to replenish any that are worn out from lots of use over time, we do not have the capacity to replace every damaged and lost book ourselves. Contributions will be payable on Arbor and instructions will be provided upon issue of a letter.

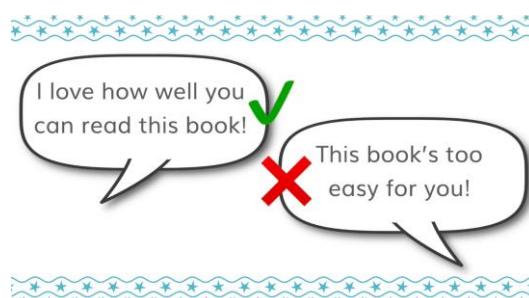
**Any late, missing or damaged books will prompt the phonics teacher to put a reminder sticker in the child's diary, followed – if necessary – by a letter and/or conversation with a member of staff to ascertain where the book is and if a contribution is required.**

### **We've read it once – can we change the book now?**

In short – no. To develop confident and fluent readers, we would ask that children read their Book Bag Book a minimum of **three times** between Friday and Thursday. The first read is to practise the Green Words and Red Words, as well as new vocabulary and children will read the text, using 'Fred Talk' to sound out any unfamiliar words. The next read, children will feel more confident and get quicker. By the third read, children will be more fluent and be able to comprehend the content more and can therefore answer the different comprehension questions at the back of the book. Ensure children practise reading until they don't get it wrong. Children also have a 'reading for pleasure' book to add variety to their reading diet so if your child has read their Book Bag Book enough times, they should be reading other books, too – especially since ALL children should read at home 5 times a week.

### **This book is too easy for my child!**

It isn't 'too easy' – your child is just showing off all the skills they have learnt in school that week! While they may still have some words to practise reading using 'Fred Talk', they do know how to read the other words by drawing on previously taught sounds and patterns. There are also comprehension questions at the back that can assess your child's understanding of what they have read.



### **Why doesn't my older child have one of these books?**

Not all children will need to access these books. They are better closely linked to children's phonics knowledge than Big Cats Books which will help early readers. Once they are confident, and have been assessed as passing the Read Write Inc scheme, they will move on to Big Cats Books. EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 (and some KS2) will all have these books to begin with.

### **Does it matter that my child has been given the same book they've had in the past?**

As children move between groups that are in line with their specific needs, you may find that your child might bring home a book they have read before. This may be because as a group, the phonics teacher has identified gaps in their knowledge, or perhaps they want the children to develop their fluency in that book a bit more. Continue to encourage your child to read it, pointing out how much they have improved since last time and celebrate their confidence in reading many of the words more quickly and fluently now. Remember that they will also have a 'reading for pleasure' book that can be shared that week, too.

### **How do I support my child with their reading fluency?**

Echo Reading is a great strategy to improve fluency. If your child struggles to read with expression, try reading a section and then having him "echo" you, using the same intonations and emphasis you used. Re-read texts aiming to get further each time using a timer. Practise tricky words separately until they are able to read them without sounding out. Don't forget to use the questions at the back of the books to check children's understanding of what they have read.

Thank you for working together with us to embed this scheme and for supporting your child to become lifelong readers.

If you have any questions about the Book Bag Books, don't hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Williamson.

Kind regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Williamson'.

Mrs D. Williamson  
KS1 Assistant Principal & English Lead