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Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are writing to inform you that from September 2022, our approach to reading book levels will change. Recent research has discredited the use of coloured book band levels due to them not specifically linking to the knowledge or skills of each child. Instead, the DfE has recommended the use of Phonic Reader books because they specifically link to the phonic sounds your child will learn or know. We have purchased brand new reading books from Dandelion Readers that the children will use during their early reading journey from Year R to the end of KS1.

Our new books link to our new phonics scheme Sounds-Write, which will also be starting across the school from September. Sounds-Write teaches word reading within multiple units, introducing new words with different sounds in incremental steps. For example, in Unit 1, children are taught to read and spell words containing the a, i, m, s and t sounds. You will receive a copy of the Sounds-Write units so that you can keep up to date with the sounds your child is currently learning. This also means that there will be no sounds in your child's reading book that they have not been exposed to, encouraging them to be more independent and feel successful in their reading.

By the end of KS1, our aim is that all children are 'free readers' and can choose a book of their choice, suitable for their age range. Your child may still bring home a reading book with a coloured sticker, but that will not mean that they are reading books from that colour only. The new coloured books we have recently purchased from Big Cat Readers will be divided into Lower KS2 and Upper KS2 so that they are suitable to the children's age range and any topics they are covering where possible. We feel that this will give the children more opportunities to read books related to their preferences, without being restricted by a coloured book band level.



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If there are any KS2 children that are working below or towards their age related expectations, they will still have access to the Phonic Readers books.

It is important that children continue to practise their blending and segmenting until they are reading fluently, which these books focus on by linking to the specific

sounds that the children know and also giving them opportunities to practise reading the same words again and again.

Our aim is that all children can read fluently by the end of their schooling with us at Coxheath Primary School, as it really is a pivotal skill needed to be successful in life. We feel that bringing in these new books and approach to reading levels will give the children enhanced opportunities to access books independently, over practise their reading skills and build their confidence in reading by accessing books pitched at their exact level.

We are really looking forward to enhancing our reading curriculum with this new approach. If you have any questions regarding this, please let us know.

Thank you for your support,

Miss Murray & Mrs Lonergan (KS1 & KS2 Reading Leads)