



Birches First School Overview of Reading Scheme and Approaches to Setting Reading Books

At Birches our reading scheme consists of books from the Collins Big Cat scheme complimented with books from Oxford Reading Tree scheme to ensure that children experience a quality range of genres, themes/topics and book styles. We have three elements to our reading approach. Books are separated into a Phonics scheme, a Reading scheme and a Guided Reading scheme.

Our Phonics/ Reading Scheme:

Nursery: During the second half of the Autumn Term, children will begin to take home a 'First Reading Book'. These wordless stories are important in developing 'story talk' skills and an understanding of books.

Reception/ Year 1/ Children not secure with Phase 5: From Reception, children receive a carefully matched, phonically decodable book from our Little Wandle Phonics Scheme. This book is read 3 times (Decoding, Prosody and Comprehension) in class before going home to practise, consolidate and apply their phonics learning in class. Parents are sent a home learning information sheet through Marvellous Me weekly which outlines the learning in phonics taken place each week to support learning at home.

When children are secure with Phase 5 phonics (typically Year 2): Once children are secure with Phase 5 phonics, they will be given an individual reading book from our reading scheme to support their developing reading skills. At Birches we recognise that Reading is not reliant on one specific skill and place great importance on the development of comprehension skills from an early age. We have invested in scheme books up to Year 6 level to enable children to remain on a structured, progressive programme throughout their time at Birches.

Children may also receive an additional phonetically decodable book to target any gaps in their phonics knowledge.

Reading skills are taught in classes daily through Whole Class Reading sessions using Reading **VIPERS**. **Once Upon a Picture** and **Pobble 365** are used to source quality picture stimulus for discussion and **Deepening Understanding** extracts are used for Whole Class Reading sessions.

Developing successful readers at Birches



Phonics Book Progression

Phase 1
(wordless stories)

Phase 2

Phase 3

Phase 4

Phase 5



Reading Band Progression

(Orange)

Turquoise

Purple

Gold

White

White plus

Lime

Lime plus

Copper

Topaz

Ruby

Emerald

Sapphire

Diamond

Pearl



Whole Class Guided Reading

Deepening Understanding age-appropriate texts structured around VIPERS skills.

Where appropriate

Guided Reading group book band progression

Project X

Reading for Pleasure

All children visit the school library weekly to choose a book to enjoy at home and promote a love of reading.

Reading band/stage alignment

Our reading bands align the stages of Oxford Reading Tree and Collins Big Cat. Please see below;

Collins BIG CAT (Birches Scheme)	Expected Year Group Progression		Project X / National Reading Band/ Colour	Oxford Reading Tree (New titles*)	Oxford TreeTops	Old ORT Brown to Black Oxford Level	Rapid Reading	Heinemann Storyworlds
Orange	Y E A R	2	6 Orange	Stage 6 Orange		ORT 6 – orange spine	Stage 3	Stage 6
Turquoise			7 Turquoise	Stage 7 Turquoise		ORT 7 – light green spine	Stage 4	Stage 7
Purple			8 Purple	Stage 8 Purple		ORT 8 – brown spine	Stage 5	Stage 8
Gold			9 Gold	Stage 9 Gold		ORT 9 – turquoise spine	Stage 6	Stage 9
White			10 White	Stage 10 White				
White Plus (age appropriate books to extend HA readers at KS1)						ORT 10 – pink spine	Stage 7	
Lime	Y E A R	3	11 Lime	Stage 11			Stage 8	Heinemann Literacy World
Lime Plus (age appropriate books to extend HA readers at KS1)					Stage 12	ORT 11– purple spine		
Copper	Y E A R	3	12 Brown		Stage 12/12+	Stage 8	Stage 9	Stage 1
Topaz						Stage 9		
Ruby	Y E A R	4	13 Grey		Stage 13/13+	Stage 10		Stage 2
Emerald						Stage 11		
	Y E A R	5	14 Dark Blue		Stage 14	Stage 12		Stage 3
16 Sapphire						Stage 13		
	Y E A R	6	15 Dark Red		Stage 15/16	Stage 14		Stage 4
Diamond						Stage 15		
Pearl						Stage 16		
			16 Black			Stage 17		
						Stage 18		
						Stage 19		
						Stage 20		