

## **Book bands**

Children are initially given, and eventually choose, books to read from our book-banded books. Fiction and non-fiction books are banded (grouped) initially on the sounds that they contain and eventually on the difficulty of the text. Age suitability is also a factor although we recognise that for children who are reading above or behind their age-related expectation this can sometimes be a challenge.

Children in the early stages of reading are regularly assessed to ensure they are on the correct book band. As children get into Year 3 upwards, changing book bands typically happens less frequently.

When the book band level is reviewed, the aim is for a child to be able to read at least 90% of the words automatically and be able to understand and answer questions about the text and the meaning of words, phrases and sentences. We actively encourage children to solely focus on reading their school book to maximise progress.

We regularly update our book-banded reading books to ensure that we have a range of titles available from the classics to recent releases. We are very grateful to the Friends of Blockley School for helping us with funding.