



Jurby Community School

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'Believe it; Achieve it'



What books should my child be able to read, and when should they be able to read them?



This guide should be used in conjunction with our 'Helping your child Learn to Read Leaflet'.

This booklet is designed to help parents understand what level of reading is expected from the 'average child' at the end of each year. They should be able to read the text independently and answer questions of varying complexity on the book. Often a child will be able to read a book, but will lack the comprehension skills i.e. they won't understand the book or be able to answer questions about it.

The vast majority of books will have pictures within them to help give the children visual clues with their reading. The text is reproduced in this booklet without the pictures to save space. The children would not be expected to read the text without the pictures.

Some children will clearly be working beyond the level expected and will have moved on to the next set of skills before the end of the year, and others will not have mastered all of them and will keep working towards them the following year.

Once children become fluent readers they should be reading 'normal' fiction books as well as colour banded books, and therefore your child may well bring home 'normal' books as well as reading scheme books.

Please note that whilst most of the major education publishers use the same colours and levels for their books, not all do, so if you buy colour banded books yourself for use at home, the colours and levels may not match the ones we use in school. When we get new books in school we assess the level ourselves to check that it fits with our scheme and will re-band books if necessary.

By the end of Reception the average child will be able to read a Red Book.

I'm getting on my bike.
I'm going up the hill.
I'm going down the hill.
I'm going to turn right.
I'm going to turn left.
I'm getting off my bike.



By the end of Year 1 the average child will be able to read a Turquoise Book.

All Hughie does is chew, chew, chew.
Whatever are we going to do?
He chews up toys, he chews up bones.
He chews up shoes and mobile phones.
He chews his bed, he chews his bowls.
He chews up all our toilet rolls.
He chews our dirty underwear.
Chewy Hughie doesn't care.

By the end of Year 2 the average child will be able to read a Gold Book

On the pirate ship Walrus, Captain Codspawn was sad.
"Why are you sad?" asked Ben, the cabin boy.
"It's my birthday tomorrow" the captain replied "I bet no one remembers to give me a present."
The cabin boy ran and told the pilot crew. The crew didn't know what to do.
"Where can we find a nice birthday present in the middle of the ocean?" they moaned.
The Ship's Cook came up with a good idea.
"I'll cook something special as a surprise."
She went to her kitchen and looked at all the cookery books. Here's the very thing.
It's called Pirate Pie.



"The more that you
read, the more things
you will know. The
more that you learn,
the more places you'll
go." -Dr Seuss

By the end of Year 3 the average child will be able to read a Lime Book

It was a week till Queen Forgetmenot's birthday.

"What would you like for your birthday, my dear?" asked King Forgetalot over breakfast.

"Sausages," said the Queen.

"Sausages? For your birthday?"

"No, sausages for my breakfast. Where are they? We always have sausages on Tuesdays. Have the pets run off with them again?"

"Never mind the sausages," said the King. "What would you like for your birthday?"

The Queen thought for a moment.

"I know what I don't want," she said.

"I don't want any more furry slippers for the dog to chew or any more lacy tights for the cat to claw."

"No more slippers or tights," muttered King Forgetalot, making a note.

By the end of Year 4 the average child will be able to read a Brown Book

"Before we start, girls, I want you to welcome a newcomer to our gym club."

The teacher knew she didn't really have to draw their attention to the person standing next to her. All eyes had been glued on James from the moment he stepped into the hall.

"B... But he is a boy!" came a shocked voice.

"Ten out of ten for observation, Katie," Mrs Smith remarked as the other girls giggled. "James has done a lot of gymnastics at his old school. I'm hoping we might soon have more boys wanting to join in here."

Katie didn't like the sound of that at all. She rated herself the best gymnast in the club and hated the idea of some boy coming in and taking that title from her.

Right through the warm-up, the girls kept sneaking glances across to James, eager to see how good he was. He made the bending and stretching exercises look easy.

By the end of Year 5 the average child will be able to read a Grey Book

Down in the valley there were three farms. The owners of these farms had done well. They were rich men. They were also nasty men. All three of them were about as nasty and mean as any men you could meet. Their names were Farmer Boggis, Farmer Bunce and Farmer Bean.

Boggis was a chicken farmer. He kept thousands of chickens. He was enormously fat. This was because he ate three boiled chickens smothered with dumplings every day for breakfast, lunch and supper.

Bunce was a duck-and-geese farmer. He kept thousands of ducks and geese. He was a kind of pot-bellied dwarf. He was so short his chin would have been under water in the shallow end of any swimming-pool in the world. His food was doughnuts and goose livers. He mashed the livers into a disgusting paste and then stuffed the paste into the doughnuts. This diet gave him a tummy-ache and a beastly temper.

By the end of Year 6 the average child will be able to read a Dark Blue Book

IF you went too near the edge of the chalk pit the ground would give way. Barney had been told this often enough. Everybody had told him. His grandmother, every time he came to stay with her. His sister, every time she wasn't telling him something else. Barney had a feeling, somewhere in his middle, that it was probably true about the ground giving way. But still, there was a difference between being told and seeing it happen. And today was one of those grey days when there was nothing to do, nothing to play, and nowhere to go. Except to the chalk pit. The dump.

Barney got through the rickety fence and went to the edge of the pit. This had been the side of a hill once, he told himself. Men had come to dig away chalk and left this huge hole in the earth. He thought of all the sticks of chalk they must have made, and all the blackboards in all the schools they must have written on. They must have dug and dug for hundreds of years. And then they got tired of digging, or somebody had told them to stop before they dug away all the hill.



Does it matter if my child does not read at home?

	Child A	Child B	Child C
Number of minutes reading (or been read to) per night at home.	20	5	1
Number of Minutes per week	140	35	7
Number of Minutes Per Month (30 days)	600	150	30
Number of Minutes per year	7300	1825	365
Number of hours per year	121.7	30.4	6.1
Number of days (24hrs) spent reading at home whilst at Primary School.	35.5	8.9	1.8

Something to think about:

- Is your child 'Child A', 'Child B' or 'Child C'?
- Which child do you think will have the better vocabulary?
- Which child do you think will be the better writer?
- Which child do you think will have the better general knowledge?
- If 'Child A' spent 20 minutes a night reading and 10 minutes a night playing online games, and 'Child B' spent 5 minutes a night reading and 25 minutes a night playing online games, who do you think will have more opportunities to flourish?