Reading

The reading system at St. Thomas More has changed this academic year. All of the existing books in school have been categorised using a new ‘Book Band’ system.

Reading books are graded by difficulty by reading levels known as Book Bands. Each Book Band has its own colour. The chart below gives an indication of the range of Book Band levels at which most children will be reading as they progress through primary school.

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| Dark Red |
| Dark Blue |
| Grey |
| Brown |
| Black |
| Silver |
| Gold |
| Purple |
| Turquoise |
| Orange |
| Green |
| Blue |
| Yellow |
| Red |
| Pink |
| Lilac |

Children tend to learn in fits and starts – periods of growth followed by periods of consolidation when their progress seems to halt for a while. The periods where you don’t see rapid progress may be worrying, but they are important as your child develops confidence in using and applying their newly acquired skills. Therefore, it may appear that your child is taking longer to move through a book band colour than before. Every child has been assessed and assigned a new reading book band based on their phonetic knowledge comprehension skills. The old stages/levels that appear on the reading books are no longer relevant, but at this early stage of the year it may result in children taking home books they may have read before.

The children will bring home a range of Oxford Reading Tree, Badger Reading and Treetop books.