



Kea Community Primary School

10 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you in regards to some changes to our assessment of reading/reading bands for KS2 as we have recently updated our RWI Scheme for early reading.

RWI's Fresh Start Intervention will be available for KS2 children who have not yet completed the RWI programme. They will be given a corresponding book closely matched to their RWI phonics level. They will be regularly assessed to ensure that they are on the correct RWI book for their phonetic ability.

After a child has completed RWI, we are now using 'Star Reader' to assess reading which is a computer-based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child cannot answer a question or answers incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. The questions cover National Curriculum reading objectives and the levels children receive from the tests align closely with assessment levels within the curriculum.

Each half term, children from Y2-Y6 take part in the online STAR Reader Assessment. These assessments test children's fluency and comprehension skills. As a result of this assessment, we are given a recommended Lexile range for each child (a Lexile range refers to level of text difficulty). Our book bands have been updated according to Lexile difficulty. We are going to use a combination of STAR Assessments and teacher judgement to ensure each child is reading a book that is closely matched to their reading level.

Please note that for a child to move up a reading band, they must show good fluency when reading aloud, but also a good understanding of what they are reading. This will be evidenced from in-class discussions and Star Reader assessments.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Abigail Reeve