

**Reader Identities**

At St Oswald’s, we aim to encourage a love of reading in every child and present them with as many positive reading opportunities as possible. Children’s voluntary reading positively correlates with academic progress, vocabulary growth, comprehension, verbal fluency, general information, and attitudes towards reading.

This year, we are encouraging the children to develop a love of reading and understand their own **reader identities**.

The children will still be exposed to a variety of texts in school during Guided Reading or Whole Class Reading sessions every day. The texts for these sessions will be chosen by the teacher and will be of an appropriate level to develop individual reading skills as well as exposing the children to high quality texts. But for their free reading books, **children will no longer be assigned a colour coded band within which to choose their books from**. Instead, the reading books have been organised into **genres and authors** and the children can choose their own free reader book from any of the categories based on what they enjoy reading the most.

Enabling children to develop their own reader identity is about helping them to be aware of their own reading ability and level of comprehension, alongside the value they place on reading. Reading identities are created at an early age and reinforced over time.

How are reading identities formed?

* Repeated experiences with texts in school and at home
* Pupils with regular positive interactions with reading will develop a belief that they are good readers
* A key element to how children’s reading identities are formed is connected to the language they hear about reading and what it means to be a reader

As we already know, reading helps expose children to all types of subjects, cultures and concepts, builds their understanding of humanity and the world around them and is one of the best ways to help them understand something without necessarily having to experience it for themselves.

Please see the list of reading categories that we have available for children to choose books from in Year 3/4 on the inside cover of your child’s Planner and please speak to your child’s teacher if you have any questions.

Year 3/4 Team