



Accelerated Reader Information Evening.

Welcome
Everyone!



Accelerated
Reader™

Children's Reading

'Young people who enjoy reading very much are nearly five times as likely to read above the expected level for their age compared with young people who do not enjoy reading at all.'

National Literacy Trust, *Children's and young people's reading today*, 2012



Children's Reading

'Children who read for pleasure are likely to do significantly better at school than their peers, making greater progress in mathematics, development of vocabulary and spelling.'

Sullivan & Brown, *Social inequalities in cognitive scores at age 16: The role of reading*, 2013



2014 National Curriculum

'Pupils should be taught to read fluently, understand extended prose, both fiction and non-fiction, and be encouraged to read for pleasure.'

'Schools should do everything to promote wider reading... Pupils should be reading widely and frequently, outside as well as in school, for pleasure and information.'

Accelerated Reader - what is it and what does it mean for your child?

- Thank you for joining us this evening.
- Hopefully this session will clarify any concerns/questions you may have linked to the Accelerated Reader Program and you'll take away **useful** and **practical** ways to help your child become a confident and successful reader.
- Any questions you have, please feel free to ask.

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

- AR is an exciting, internet-based program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice.
- Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace.
- When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read.



What is a **STAR** Reading test?

- A STAR Reading Test is used to determine your child's reading level. It 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**, but it is still challenging.
- The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes.
- No reading test is 100% accurate 100% of the time, but these tests give a good indication to the school and to you as parents of your child's reading and understanding level.



What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?



- The STAR reading test gives us lots of information to use once each child has been tested.
- Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test.
- ZPD is the range of books that will **challenge** a child without causing **frustration** or **loss of motivation**.
- It is important for children to read with a **high degree of comprehension** and **within their ZPDs**.
- ZPDs will **change** throughout the year as your child will take several STAR reading tests. Your child will see an increase in their ZPD and this is the **motivator** for them. **It is a sign that they are making progress.**

What is a Book Level?

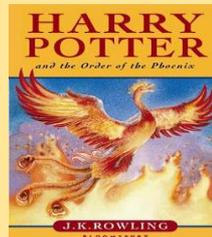
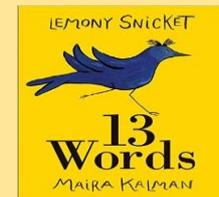
- Book Levels are reported using an intelligent readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text.
- The levels range from 0.5 - 13.5. Books are chosen based on the ZPD range recommended for each pupil by the STAR reading test.

Accelerated Reader Book Level Guide

- 0.0 - 1.9
- 2.0 - 2.9
- 3.0 - 3.9
- 4.0 - 4.9
- 5.0 - 5.9
- 6.0 +

What is the points system?

- Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value.
- AR points are computer generated based on the difficulty of the book (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words). For example: *13 Words* by Lemony Snicket is a 0.5 point book - about 849 words long and a book level of 3.5, whilst *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* book, is a 44 point book - about 257,154 words long and a book level of 7.2.



How can I support when choosing a book from the library, bookstore or at home?

- All the stock in our library has been labelled to show that it is an AR book. Each book is labelled with the book level and reading suitability - lower/upper years.
- Alternatively, you may go to www.arbookfind.co.uk to conduct a search of all books with AR quizzes so that your child can enjoy an even larger range of books.

www.arbookfind.co.uk/user_type.aspx



AR BookFinder

Welcome

Searching for Accelerated Reader books is fun and easy with this free online tool.

Please tell us who you are:

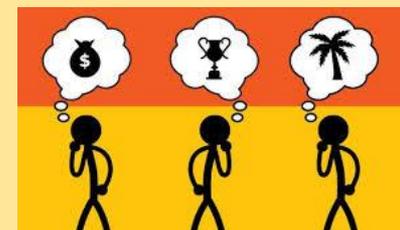
- Pupil
- Parent
- Teacher
- Librarian



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What rewards will my child get?

- Awards assemblies are held termly and the rewards will be based on points accumulated over a period of time, words read over time and progress made in reading levels/quizzes.
- There are opportunities for **individual** and **house** awards.
- There will be celebrations for everyone - not just those who read the more challenging books or 'bigger' books.
- Remember, the focus for us as teachers is how your child does in their quizzes. The higher the score, the better their comprehension of what they have read. It doesn't matter about how many words or pages they can read, but what they have understood.



My child already does well in reading. Why do they need this?

All children need to be challenged, no matter what their ability and Accelerated Reader stretches and challenges all children to become better readers, to understand a wider range of vocabulary and to increase their comprehension skills.

We are encouraging our pupils to read a wide range of texts and not simply stick to their favourite genre.

All children need to be challenged to reach their full potential. Reading is a huge focal point in all areas of the curriculum regardless of age/stage of learning.

What if my child doesn't like reading?

- Using Accelerated Reader, your child will choose the books they want to read as there is an abundance of choice.
- Their teacher/our librarian will make certain the book is at the right level so that after completing the book, your child should do well on the AR Reading Practice Quiz.
- Success on the quiz will encourage your child to read more. With guidance from the teacher, and success, even pupils who say they don't like reading will develop a love of reading as it will become more routine.
- There will be an element of competition through the rewards system so this should encourage participation from everyone.

<http://www.renlearn.co.uk/accelerated-reader/>



How can I help my child to become a better reader?

- Encourage your child to read at home and you can help record progress in your child's reading log in their planner.
- When reading together, stop and ask questions to check that your child understands what they have read.
- Reading with your child, no matter how old they are, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a lifelong love of reading and learning.
- According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.

How will I know how my child is doing?

- You'll be able to log on using Renaissance Home Connect.
- We have your login information ready for you to take away today.
- You will be able to see how your child is doing and you can access a TOPS Report that tells you and your child how they are doing so you can follow their progress.

How will teachers help?

- Guiding them to books appropriate to their ability and interests.
- Asking probing questions as your child reads and before quizzing.
- Pairing your child with others, reading with or reading to your child.
- We will be better informed through a wide variety of data which will help us to intervene much more quickly.
- Since our pupils will be reading books at their own reading and interest levels, most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace.

- Any feedback is most appreciated.
- If you could spare a few moments completing a quick, online survey, we would be most grateful. The link is here

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Q8V2VX3>

Thank you for your time -
any questions or anything
you'd like to be clarified?