

22nd September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to inform you that we have an exciting reading program, Accelerated Reader, at Codsall Middle School, which has proved hugely successful since its introduction a year ago. This program has not only been specifically designed to improve pupils' reading ability and continue to raise their reading age, but also to encourage and nurture a love of reading that will continue into high school.

Reading is, and continues to be, a national priority for many reasons, but in the main, being able to demonstrate competent reading skills is essential for subjects across the entire curriculum. We are hoping that the Accelerated Reader Program will help pupils to develop these competent reading skills further and, as a result, raise their attainment.

The Accelerated Reader Program works by initially testing the pupils and generating pupils' ZPDs (Zone of Proximal Development) which identifies a selection of books that, not only meet the pupils' abilities but also challenges them to develop their reading and vocabulary. Pupils will be given the opportunity to visit the library regularly to choose, change and be guided towards suitable books that fall into their ZPD. Once pupils have read their book, they will then take a short electronic quiz that tests their understanding of what they have read. This information and program will allow us, as teachers, to not only keep track of pupils' reading developments but also have meaningful discussions about: what they have read, how well they have read and understood a book and how best to support their reading development.

As previously mentioned, at Codsall Middle School we want to encourage and create a love for reading, so through Accelerated Reader there will be House competitions, reward opportunities and fantastic prizes throughout the year.

We are going to be offering pupils more opportunities in school to conduct reading sessions. However, we still ask you to support us with home reading and continue to sign your son/daughter's planner each week to say they have read. The more they read, the more they will be successful in this program. We understand that Accelerated Reader may be a new concept and program, so we would like to give you the opportunity to join us for a presentation and question session on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to inform you further. The timing of the session will be 5:30pm until 6:30pm. Because the children already know what the system entails, we ask for them not to attend the sessions. Please complete the online booking form which can be found at <https://codsallms.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/> and select a suitable session that you wish to attend. There is a help sheet on how to book online which is attached to this letter for your information. Until then, happy reading!

Yours faithfully

**Mr M De Wit**  
Leader of Literacy

