

Our ambition is for every child to read by 7 using a synthetic phonics approach and to develop a love of reading for fluency and comprehension in order to access a broad and balanced curriculum. We do everything to make this happen.

### **What is Accelerated Reader?**

[Accelerated Reader](#) is a computer program that helps teachers and librarians manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) Accelerated Reader gives children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.

### **How does Accelerated Reader work?**

Primarily Key Stage 2 children will take a STAR Reading assessment 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 misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

After undertaking this assessment the class teacher is then provided with a range of information related to your child's reading ability. This includes: their reading age, the difficulty range of books that your child should be reading (ZPD) and how children can be supported to improve their reading comprehension.

In independent literature-based reading, ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test. It's important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs.

After completing the STAR Reading Test, your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child is then able to take a short quiz on the computer. Time is available every day for children to complete Accelerated Reader quiz. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) Accelerated Reader gives children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct on-going reading practice.

Children using Accelerated Reader choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them. Teachers help your child choose books at an appropriate readability level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success.



If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher may help your child:

- Choose another book that is more appropriate.
- Ask more probing questions as your child reads and before your child takes a quiz.
- Narrow the reading range and support book choices.

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they're reading books at their reading and interest levels, they are likely to be successful. This is satisfying for most children. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace.

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookstore on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading, and discussing books that each of you has read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child is comprehending what is read. Reading with your child, no matter what the child's age, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a lifelong love of reading and learning, and creating a loving relationship between you and your child. Make learning a family affair!

Parents may be concerned that children are unfairly compared to each other. Accelerated Reader allows staff to work with each child individually. Children are encouraged to progress at their own pace and set their own goals with the help of the teacher. The aim of Accelerated Reader is for all children to succeed in achieving their goals.

There are over 160,000 Accelerated Reader quizzes available!!!



### **Celebrating Achievements**

At the launch of Accelerated Reader, we shared with children that we wished to reward those children who achieved their goal / target points at the end of each school term. We have a range of awards linked to words read with the theme of 'biscuits.' The aim is to reach 1 million words.



### **How can I help my child find a book that interests them?**

If you wish to help your child select a reading book then visit [arbookfind.co.uk](http://arbookfind.co.uk) and click on Advanced Search. By conducting an advanced search, you can generate book lists that contain titles based on the criteria you enter such as book level, topic, interest level, fiction/nonfiction, etc. This is a great idea when looking for presents.

### **How can parents/carers be involved?**

We strive to ensure parents are an integral part of their child's learning. Please share reading with your child regularly regardless of their age or ability. Use their personalised reading diaries to support you in asking reading comprehension questions to check your child's understanding.

If teaching staff have a particular concern regarding your child's progress they will endeavour to contact parents directly. Parents are always welcome to speak to class teachers to check how well their child is progressing across the term.

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

Even if a child is gifted at playing a musical instrument, they have to practise to develop their talent. Gifted children, like all children, need to be challenged. Teachers using Accelerated Reader are able to guide each student to books that give the child both challenge and success, regardless of the child's level.

**My child is not a strong reader. Can they still use Accelerated Reader?**

Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers, from students with special needs to those who are gifted and talented. When children read books at an appropriate level, they experience success. Furthermore, teachers and librarians work with children to set appropriate goals based on each child's reading level.

**How will my child take a quiz?**

There are two different ways students can take Accelerated Reader quizzes at school: on the computer or on a mobile device. Quizzing from home is not permitted. Time is allocated each school day for children to take quizzes when they have completed a book. Your child needs to take a quiz within 24 hours of completing their book where possible. Children may take quizzes of books they have read at home but should make sure they have read and understood each book before completing a quiz.

**Will my child have to read a book I don't want him to read?**

No. There are many, many choices of books at your child's level. Your child will never be forced to read a book you find questionable.

<https://www.renaissance.com/2016/09/09/parents-guide-renaissance-accelerated-reader-360/>

