

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, we use the Accelerated Reader (AR) program in school. This is a computer program, which is used successfully in many schools to develop children's independent reading. This program is for children who have completed the school's reading scheme, and are now free readers.

When using the Accelerated Reader program, your child will pick a book at their own level, and when they are finished, take a short quiz on the computer. The quiz is really important, as it allows us to assess a child's level of comprehension. If your child can pass a quiz about the book they have read, then this tells us that they have fully understood the content of their book. All of the books in school have been labelled and put into book levels that will help guide your child in choosing a book.

Before they could begin on AR, your child completed a short reading test (called a Star Test) that has assigned them a reading band. Your child is now able to select a book from our library that falls within their reading band. This reading band will guide your child towards choosing books at an appropriate reading level, and that are challenging without being frustrating. The aim is for them to pass the quizzes and be successful, but more importantly, to enjoy reading and be motivated to read regularly. We will repeat this reading test termly to assess their reading level and the progress that they are making.

When your child starts on AR, it may appear that they are bringing home 'easier' books than the ones from the Colour Banded Reading Scheme. This is because previously the focus was on decoding words and reading fluency. Now they are confident, fluent readers, using AR requires them to practise different skills. The focus is much more on comprehension and recalling information from the texts. Also, they have to do the quizzes independently.

It is important that even once your child moves onto AR, they continue to read to an adult and discuss what they have read. As they move onto longer texts, they might read some of the book independently, but it is still important to read to an adult every night, even if just a few pages, and have a conversation about their book.

We ask that the children read at home for at least twenty minutes daily. We really appreciate your support in encouraging your child to do this, as, ultimately, the reading practice that your child gets outside of school contributes greatly towards them becoming a confident, successful reader. As part of this program, your child will receive certificates for reading and completing quizzes regularly.

If you have any questions about Accelerated Reader, please see your child's teacher.

Many thanks,

Kirsty Singfield (English Lead) and Donna Habbishaw (Reading Champion)