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6th October 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Accelerated Reader Update

First of all, I would like to say a huge thank you in supporting your child to read and enjoy their books. Thank you for taking time to share stories and texts with your children - we all know that in order for children to really develop their reading skills, they need to see those closest to them enjoying reading.

Accelerated Reader is certainly taking off in school. Children are quizzing regularly based on their current AR book - it has been fantastic to see how well they are doing.

I thought you would find it useful for me to answer a few questions you might have:

Does my child ONLY have to read their AR book?

No. Your child should read their AR book, but alongside this, they should be reading a range of other texts, this could be anything from magazines and graphic novels to cereal packets and instruction manuals.

Does my child's AR range relate to their age?

No. However, books have an interest level. Your child's teacher will ensure your child chooses a book that is suitable for their age-range. For example, if your child is in Y3 with a ZPD around the 5.6 mark and they choose 'Northern Lights,' this book is not suitable for them as the themes and content would be unsuitable.

Can my child take a quiz at home?

No. The aim is for children to quiz at school within 24 to 48 hours after they complete their book. You can check on their progress by asking your child to login to Accelerated Reader - you can also look at their bookshelf to see which books they have read.

My child wants to read a book from home - can they take a quiz on it?

*Yes. You can check to see if it is an AR book by going to <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx>
If you can't find the book, please still encourage your child to read it!*

Is my child's teacher aware of what AR book my child is reading?

Yes. All teachers keep a record of what children are reading and when they have taken a quiz. Teachers regularly check the data from AR to make sure children are reading the right type of books and will help them choose books that are just right.



If my child really doesn't like their AR book, can they change it?

Of course! With longer chapter books, we would recommend children keep going until they have read at least 50 pages. However, if a child really doesn't get on with a book, they can change it.

Why is my child reading books that aren't 'free reader' books?

All children who have access to Accelerated Reader are 'Free Readers.' The books we have in school have been catalogued into the corresponding ZPD bands. Children can choose any book within their range and then take a quiz - Accelerated Reader aims to develop children's comprehension skills, so quizzing is key. Your child might have read a particular book in the past, but we are focussing on developing their comprehension. Remember, your child can also choose another book from the library which does not have to relate to their ZPD. If they are desperate to read 'Harry Potter,' but it is out of range, they can still choose this, but should be sharing it with someone at home.

This guide is really helpful at understanding the ZPD range:

What does your ZPD mean?

BELOW ZPD Comfort Zone	LOWER ZPD Exploration Zone	UPPER ZPD Deep Dive	ABOVE ZPD Read Together
 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is an easier read, perfect for reading at home or on holiday• Maybe it's part of a series you enjoy or is by an author you really like• Ask your teacher first	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Go wild and try something new!• Explore new genres, authors and book lengths• Challenge yourself if you can	 <p>Plan ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Choose a book you are excited about✓ Pick a shorter book first✓ Make notes as you read – remember the 5Ws!✓ Ask your teacher for advice	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is a challenging read• Who would enjoy reading this book with you?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A parent?- An older sibling?- A friend?• Ask your teacher first

Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)

The Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) defines the readability range within which pupils should read to best develop their reading, while avoiding frustration. The ZPD is especially useful for pupils using Renaissance Accelerated Reader, which lists readability levels for all quizzed books. However, success at any difficulty also depends on a student's interest in a book, and knowledge of its content.

Once again, thank you so much for supporting us as a school with the implementation of Accelerated Reader. We are allowing children a minimum of 20 minutes per day to read independently and read to their teachers. Please support us by committing to at least 20 minutes of reading at home as well - this could be you reading to your child, your child reading to you or your child reading independently.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Kind regards,

Liz Blakeley (Reading Lead)

