



Hevingham & Marsham
Primary School Partnership



Accelerated Reader Guide for Parents



At Hevingham and Marsham Primary Schools, we use the Accelerated Reader (AR) programme to support children in Key Stage 2 with their reading. If your child is in Key Stage 2, this leaflet will give you an overview of what it is all about so that you can understand it better and support your child with their reading.

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR aims to encourage and improve reading, measure growth of the individual reader and to provide quality reading for all. It allows for personalised learning targets to be set up and for progress to be easily monitored.

Your child will choose a book at their own level and read it at their own pace. When finished, they will take a short quiz on a computer or tablet. Gaining a good score on the quiz is an indication that your child has understood the book.

AR gives both 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.

At school, we will continue to teach the skills of reading in class through class guided reading texts and the AR books chosen by your child will provide them with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed.

Pupils using AR are encouraged to progress at their own pace and they have personalised targets based on their reading ability. The aim of AR is for all children to succeed in achieving their targets.

What are STAR Reading Tests?

Every child taking part in AR will complete a STAR reading test each term. It is a twenty to thirty minute multiple choice reading assessment completed individually on the computer. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses so if their response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If they miss a question or give an incorrect answer, the difficulty level is reduced.

The STAR reading test, along with teacher judgement assists us in identifying a child's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) range.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

After your child takes a STAR reading test, the teacher will assess the results and give them a ZPD reading range e.g. 2.4 – 3.5. The range aims to challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation.

How do I know what books my child can read?

Your child will know their range and the books they should be choosing. A ZPD can change throughout the year based on STAR reading tests, professional judgement and quiz results.

Children can read books from any level within their ZPD range but usually begin with books at the lower end of their range to ensure that they experience success from the outset.

Each book in school has been labelled to show the ZPD and the AR quiz number. You can also look up other books that you read at home to see if they have an AR quiz on this website: www.arbookfind.co.uk Here you can find out the Book Level (BL), the number of points that can be gained from reading the book (based on the difficulty of the book and the number of words) and whether it is has an interest level for Lower Years, Middle Yeas or Upper Years (LY/MY/UY). Not all books are on the AR system but the list is continually being added to so if you have a book at home (or from the public library) that your child wants to read, you can check the level and whether they are able to do a quiz.

What are the AR Quizzes?

When your child has finished reading a book, they will be given time in school to take a quiz independently on the computer or tablet. We aim for all quizzes to be taken within 48 hours of finishing a book so as soon as your child finishes a book, they should let their teacher know that they are ready to take the quiz.

There are two main types of quizzes your child will take:

- **Reading Practice Quizzes.** These are the most common type of assessment. The purpose is to determine whether your child has read a book, measure your child's literal comprehension of the book and provide immediate feedback. Each quiz consists of 3, 5, 10 or 20 multiple-choice questions depending on the book level and length.
- **Vocabulary Practice Quizzes.** These measure a child's command or vocabulary words encountered while reading. They are designed to reinforce vocabulary acquisition, assist with individualising vocabulary instruction and generate your child's interest in words through authentic, in-context literature experiences. Quizzes include 5, 10 or 15 words from a particular book as well as review words from previously read books.

Depending on the book level the quiz will take around 5-10 minutes to complete. The results are calculated and shown to the child instantly.

Children earn points, or a portion of the book's points, depending on how well they do on the Reading Practice quiz. For example, a child who reads a book worth 5 points and takes a 10-question quiz will earn the full 5 points for 10 correct answers (100%), 4.5 points for 9 correct answers (90%) etc. For quizzes with 3, 5 or 10 questions, a child needs to score 60% or higher to earn points. For quizzes with 20 questions, a child needs to score 70% or higher to earn points.

If your child does not do so well on a quiz, they will discuss it with their teacher and either be encouraged to choose a book that is more appropriate or receive further support if needed. You can help by asking questions about the book as your child reads it at home.

How are targets set?

The AR program generates personalised targets for each child. These targets are based on how many AR points a child should be able to earn depending on how much time they read

and their reading level. The more books your child reads, and the better they do on the quizzes, the more points they will earn.

How can I help?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. We provide lots of opportunities for reading in school but you can help by encouraging reading at home too.

Talk to your child about the books they are reading and how they have done on their quizzes. Even when a child is a fluent reader, it is still important for them to read aloud so listen to them read. A child may be able to decode and read the words but may not have understood it, so asking questions about the book is important too. Reading with your child, no matter what the age, is an important part of developing good reading skills and a lifelong love of reading.

Can my child read books that are not on their ZPD level?

Yes of course!

We encourage children to develop a love of reading and they should not be discouraged from taking any book that catches their interest. Harder books may need support from you and won't give children the depth of understanding an appropriately levelled ZPD book will but they will still be enjoyed and develop a love of reading.

Your child will be able to take two books out from the school library – one as their reading book within their ZPD and one free choice book that also appeals to them.

Further information for parents can be found on the Accelerated Reader website:

<https://help.renlearn.co.uk/AR/ARParentGuide>