

Reading with your child and a guide to Accelerated Reader

This guide is designed to answer your questions about helping your child learn to read and to give you information about Accelerated Reader (AR) programme. If you have further questions, please contact your child's teacher via dojo or face to face.

Books for Home Reading

Reception to Key Stage 1

- Children will take home books from the Collins Big Cat Reading Scheme, chosen to complement the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised phonics programme.
- These books are phonetically decodable, supporting early reading skills.

Year 2 and above

- Children will continue with the Collins scheme where appropriate, but will also choose books from the school library under the **Accelerated Reader (AR) programme**.
- This allows children to select books that match their interests and reading level, promoting independent reading.

How often will my child's books be changed?

Generally speaking, we will aim to change reading books in KS1 as and when is required. This will be a number of times in the week. More specific information will be shared by class teachers on Class Dojo pages. In Key Stage 2, children can change their books independently.

How do I listen to my child read?

Please take time to read with your child at home. This should be a fun activity and choose time when your child is most responsive (i.e. not immediately before bedtime or during their favourite TV programme!)

Find a quiet, place to curl up with a book! This involves taking time out of often busy schedules. Make sure there are no distractions and that the TV is off. Generally speaking, children should read with an adult.

This teaches children that reading is a grown-up thing to do, is valued and important. If the evening is not convenient, try reading first thing in a morning instead. Regular reading practise is the key to success,

Don't worry about trying to read the whole book! As your child increasingly accesses longer texts, it would be appropriate to read a few pages well rather than try to race through the whole text.

What do I do when my child is reading?

Encourage your child to have a go at words they don't know by using the pictures in the story, the events of the book. Encourage them to use their phonic knowledge by sounding out and blending. Ask them questions about what they are reading from time to time. Above all, enjoy it! Laugh at the funny bits and enjoy this time!

If my child reads the programme quickly, will they be a better reader?

No. Children who 'race' through the programme are not better readers. Children who do often have little comprehension of the words they read they will often struggle to make deductions from the text, or predict. Worst of all, they may actually dislike reading which rather than being a pleasurable thing to do becomes a tiresome chore.

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer-based programme that:

- Helps teachers monitor independent reading
- Allows children to read books at their own level and pace
- Provides quizzes to check comprehension after reading
- Offers feedback to teachers and pupils to set reading targets

Benefits of AR:

- Children can choose books they enjoy
- Teachers guide them to books that are challenging but achievable
- Quizzes help children track their understanding and progress

Children receive a unique username and login to access their AR account at school and at home. Quizzes must be completed independently to ensure accurate assessment.

How does the school determine my child's reading level?

Teachers determine your child's reading level in several ways. Through assessment of the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds scheme, through a reading fluency assessment or from a Star Reader assessment online.

What is a STAR Reading test?

Before your child can start the Accelerated Reader programme, they must complete the Star Reader test. STAR Reading is a computer-based reading assessment program 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 cannot answer a question or answers incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 10 minutes. This test will always be completed in school. If your child has been able to access this test, then they will be given a book level.

What is a Book Level?

Children from Year 2 upwards have undertaken an initial 'Star Reading' assessment which has provided them with a reading age, reading level and a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) range.

This ZPD range will allow the children to select appropriate reading books that will be best suited to develop their reading ability and comprehension. KS1 children will continue to use the Collins Cat Reading Scheme and fluency books to develop their reading as well as being given a ZPD number to identify other books within their reading ability. After children move from these, we will encourage them to extend their reading by using their ZPD.

To enable children to easily find books easily, books in school have been labelled on the inside cover with a Book Level sticker (B.L.) which refers to the ZPD range.

These have been colour coded at the bottom of the book as follows:

For guidance, Red levels have a low reading age around 5.0 years and Black level have an adult reading age above 16 years.

What are points?

The most exciting part of the Accelerated Reader program is the quizzes that it provides. When your child has finished a book, they can take a quiz to test their knowledge of it and develop their comprehension skills. This can be done at home or at school. They can then change their book in school for a new one.

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a points value. AR points are based on the difficulty of the book (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words).

Children earn points on a pro rata basis depending on how well they do on the Reading Practice Quiz. For example, a pupil who takes a 5-question quiz on a book worth 1 point will earn 1 point for 5 correct answers (100%), 0.8 point for 4 correct answers (80%) and so on. A pupil who reads a book worth 5 points and takes a 10-question quiz will earn 5 points for 10 correct answers (100%) 4.5 points for 9 correct answers (90%), etc. A child needs to pass a quiz with a score of 60% or higher to earn points.

Class teachers can reward children for achieving a certain amount of points and in Key Stage 2 there are half termly celebration assemblies to reward different achievements, such as points achieved or Accuracy Rate of quizzes.

My child is not a strong reader. Can he/she still use Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader helps *all* children become better readers regardless of their reading ability.

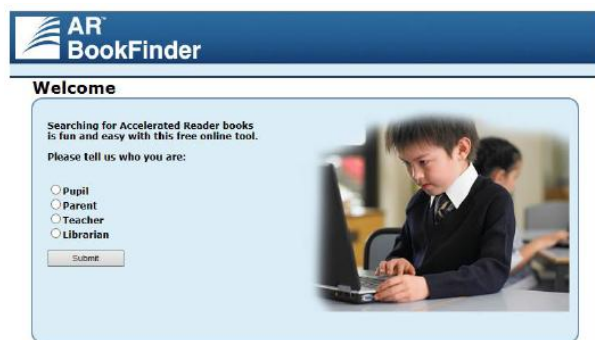
When children read books at their appropriate level, they experience success. Furthermore, teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's reading level.

St Mary's Accelerated Reader levels

	LEVEL 0 TO 0.9
	LEVEL 1.0 TO 1.9
	LEVEL 2 TO 2.9
	LEVEL 3 TO 3.9
	LEVEL 4 TO 4.9
	LEVEL 5 TO 5.9
	LEVEL 6 TO 6.9
	LEVEL 7 TO 7.9
	LEVEL 8 & ABOVE

How will I know if a book has an AR quiz?

As well as reading school library books, as a parent/carer you may wish to buy books for your child. You can visit the AR BookFinder at **www.arbookfind.co.uk** to conduct a search of all available books with AR quizzes. If the book is not listed here then it is not on the Accelerated Reader programme.



How will I know how my child is doing?

Parents are able to access their child's AR information in Renaissance Place Home Connect from any web-enabled computer or tablet. Parents will receive an individual letter with their unique details on to access this site.

Once on the site, you will be able to view your child's progress towards targets, points and books read.

For any further information, please speak to your child's class teacher or Deputy Head Teacher, Mrs Messenger.