



Guide to Accelerated Reader

Once your child has been assessed as confidently reading independently at book level 23/24, they will move on to the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. This guide is designed to answer any questions you may have about AR. If you have additional questions, please contact your child's teacher or visit the AR website at www.renlearn.com to find out more.

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR is part of the Renaissance Reading software package used at Alsager Highfields Foundation Primary School to encourage and improve reading, measure the 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. This short guide will help you to understand the system better so that you can support your child with their reading.

Your child will choose a book at their own ZPD level and read it at their own pace. When finished, they will take a short quiz on the computer/iPad. Passing 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.

AR is used as part of a comprehensive reading programme in place at Alsager Highfields Community Primary School. Whilst we continue to teach the skills of reading in class through whole class guided reading and group reading texts, the AR books chosen by your child will provide them with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed.

What is a STAR Reading Test?

Every child taking part in AR will complete a STAR Reading Test at least every half term. It is a multiple choice reading assessment completed individually on the computer/iPad, where your child is asked 34 questions. 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. The range aims to challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation.

Your child will know their ZPD 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. There is a sticker in the front of your child's Reading Diary that indicates their current reading rang. This sticker is updated every half term after a STAR reading test is sat.

What are the AR Quizzes?

When your child has finished reading a book, they will be given time to take a quiz independently on the computer or iPad. At Alsager Highfields Community Primary School we aim for all quizzes to be taken within 24 hours of finishing a book. Depending on the book level, the quiz may be 5, 10 or 20 questions long and will take around 5 minutes to complete. The quiz assesses general comprehension of the book and results are calculated and shown to the child instantly.

The number of quizzes available continues to grow as new books are added to AR.

Your child can take a quiz when they have read a book independently.

Your child can bring in books from home or the local library to read as part of AR if their teacher feels they are suitable. To conduct a simple book search to see if a book is on Accelerated Reader go to www.arbookfind.co.uk



How much will my child read during the school day?

According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 80% success rate or above on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.

To ensure children experience success from the outset, they begin each half term by reading books at the lower end of their ZPD range.

Therefore, at Alsager Highfields Community Primary School we aim to set aside at least 20 minutes for independent reading each school day.

How can I help?

Encourage your child to read with you and/or discuss what they have 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. Reading with your child, no matter what the age, is an important part of developing good reading skills and a lifelong love of reading.

As with anything, performance improves with practice. We provide lots of opportunities for reading in school but you can help by providing a culture of reading at home. Recording your child's reading journey in their Reading Diary helps to keep a record of the progress that your child makes, both in school and at home.

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