

Beechwood School - Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader

Once your child has been assessed as confidently reading independently, they will move onto Accelerated Reader (AR). This guide is designed to give you a quick overview and answer any questions that you may have. Additional information can be obtained from your child's class teacher or via the website - www.renlearn.com.

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR is a piece of reading software that is used to encourage and improve reading; and measure and track the growth of individual readers. It allows personalised targets to be set and progress to be easily monitored. AR gives pupils and teachers feedback based on quiz results which can then be used to help set goals and direct on-going reading practice.

Whilst we continue to teach reading through whole class shared and individual reading, the AR ZPD levelled books chosen by your child will provide them with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills that they have developed.

What is ZPD?

After your child takes a STAR reader test, the teacher will assess the results and give them a ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) reading range. The range aims to challenge the child without causing them to lose motivation because the book is too difficult. The ZPD range will change throughout the year and there should be a note in the front/back of your child's reading diary that indicates their current reading range. This should be updated each half term.

Your child will choose a book within their ZPD range and read it at their own pace. When finished, they will take a short quiz on the iPad. Passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood the book.

What is a STAR Reading Test?

Every child taking part in AR will complete a STAR Reading Test every half term. It is a multiple choice reading assessment completed individually on an iPad. There are 34 questions, which are continually adjusted to individual responses so that the difficulty level is adjusted in response to the answers given. The STAR reading test combined with teacher judgement assists in identifying the child's ZPD range.

What are AR Quizzes?

Each time your child finishes a book, they will be given time to take a quiz independently. Quizzes should be taken within 24 hours of finishing a book. Depending on the book level, the quiz may include 5, 10 or 20 questions. The quiz assesses comprehension and the results are displayed instantly. We aim for children to achieve above 80% on their quizzes.

How can I help as a Parent?

According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day have the greatest success. Encouraging your child to read with you and discuss the book is useful. Sometimes, a child may be able to decode the words but may not have understood it. 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 for reading at home too. Recording your child's reading journey in their reading diary is important and this should be done a minimum of 4 times per week in Reception and Key Stage One and a minimum of 3 times per week in Key Stage Two.