

Welcome to Cotford St Luke Primary School Accelerated Reader Information Session 1st November 2023

Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." - Frederick Douglass



"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." - Margaret Fuller

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

- ▶ AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace.
- ▶ When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read.
- ▶ AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets and ongoing reading practice.



What is a STAR Reading Test?

- ▶ STAR Reading is a computerised reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology.
- ▶ Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response to a question is correct, the difficulty level of the next question is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level of the next question is reduced.
- ▶ The test uses multiple choice questions and takes approximately 10 - 20 minutes.
- ▶ Your child will sit a STAR reading test at the beginning of each term.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

- ▶ In independent literature-based reading, ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation.
- ▶ Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test.
- ▶ It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs.
- ▶ You can find out your child's ZPD in your child's reading journal or by asking their class teacher.

Is it OK for my child to read outside of his/her reading level?

- ▶ Just because a child can read the words in a book does not mean the content is appropriate.
- ▶ The interest level and understanding of the material must be considered. Interest level is based on content—a book's themes and ideas—and indicates for which age group a book is appropriate.
- ▶ Comprehension (understanding) is just as important as children need to understand what they are reading as well as being able to read as that's when a child will gain most enjoyment from a book.

How much will my child read during the school day?

- ▶ We teach reading at school through the curriculum, in English lessons, afternoon lessons and Guided Reading lessons. The children will experience a variety of text types.
- ▶ According to Renaissance Learning's research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.
- ▶ We ask that children read at least 3 times a week, but the more they read at home the better.

What does my score tell me?

100%	→	This book was comfortable for you. Perhaps try a book higher up in your ZPD range next time.
90%	→	This book was perfect for you. Perhaps try one or two book levels higher next time.
80%	→	This book was a little difficult for you. Perhaps choose one or two book levels lower next time.
70%	→	This book was quite challenging for you. Perhaps try a book at the lower end of your ZPD range next time.
60% or below	→	This book was too challenging. Perhaps try a book at the lower end of your ZPD or speak to your teacher for help.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

- ▶ As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home, books of their own choice and interest as well as their AR book.
- ▶ Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookshop on a regular basis and by letting your child see you reading.
- ▶ When reading with your child stop and ask questions to be sure your child comprehends what they have read and in general make a habit of discussing books that each of you has read.

Things you may like to think about when reading with your child

- ▶ Before reading the book:
 - ▶ What do you think this story will be about?
 - ▶ What might happen in the story?
 - ▶ What genre will this story be? E.g. fantasy, comedy, horror.
 - ▶ What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell



During the reading of the book:

- ▶ What has happened so far?
- ▶ Is it what you expected to happen?
- ▶ What might happen next?
- ▶ How do you think the story might end?
- ▶ Who is your favourite character? Why?
- ▶ Who is the character you like least? Why?
- ▶ Find 2 sentences, which describe the setting.
- ▶ Is the plot fast or slow moving? Find some evidence in the text, which supports your view.

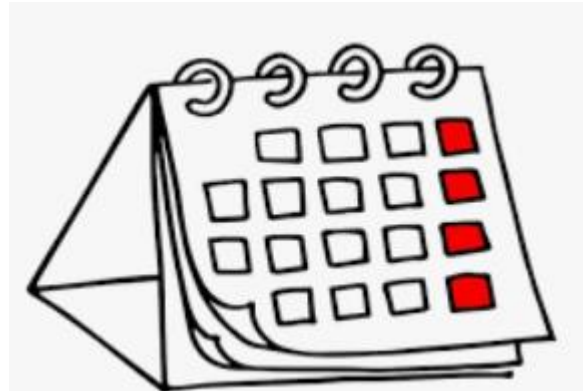


At the end of the book:

- ▶ Which part of the story is your favourite / least favourite? Why?
- ▶ Would you change any part of the story? How?
- ▶ Would you change any of the characters? How?
- ▶ Which part of the story was the funniest, scariest, saddest, and happiest? Find some evidence in the text to support your opinion.
- ▶ Would you like to read another book by this author? Why?
- ▶ Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why?
- ▶ If you met one of the characters from the story, what would you say to him/her?
- ▶ Find 2 things the author wrote about this character that made him / her likeable or unlikeable?

How often should my child be taking a quiz?

- ▶ Children should be taking a quiz around every 3 weeks. The size of their book should not affect this as the book they have should be achievable for them during this time frame.
- ▶ Some children will take the quiz alongside an adult who can support them in using the IT equipment or even read the questions to them.



Rewards

- ▶ Every week a report is sent to teachers about their classes progress.
- ▶ As a school we have set a benchmark pass rate of 85%.
- ▶ At the end of each half term the class with the highest pass rate will receive a reward and a certificate.

