

Accelerated Reader

As we have now fully embedded Accelerated Reader into Key Stage 2 and introduced it to Year 2, we thought it would be an appropriate time to clarify how we will be refining the scheme as we move into our second year as an Accelerated Reader school.

We are sure you will agree that it is a wonderful resource and from a school point of view it has enabled us to match books to children's reading age and also ensure they are motivated to read a wide range of texts. Being able to do this accurately builds on children's comprehension skills and increases their enthusiasm for reading.

Following initial assessments at the beginning of each half term, the children will be given a zone of proximal development (ZPD) which is a range within which they can select books. Within this range children should find texts which challenge and increase their reading ability whilst allowing them to develop important inference, deduction and comprehension skills. However, we are aware that children may wish to explore books outside their ZPD, especially if they are within a series of books that they particularly enjoy or are by an author they feel inspired by. Children have been told therefore, that they may read books up to 0.5 above their ZPD if they so wish e.g. if a child has a ZPD of 4.0 – 5.1 they may also read books up to level 5.6.

An important aspect of the Accelerated Reader scheme is the AR Quizzes which the children take when they have completed a book. These are not memory tests but a check on your child's comprehension and understanding of what they have read. The results of these quizzes are closely monitored by the class teachers. If a child is scoring less than 70% in an AR Quiz, the class teacher will talk to your child and discreetly guide them to books within their ZPD which will be more suitable for their reading level.

We have a number of rewards linked to Accelerated Reader which have proved very motivational for the children as they recognise the effort children put into their reading. These are:

- The 100% Club, which children become members of when they achieve 100% in an AR Quiz.
- Receiving a merit on completion of a target 'flower'.
- Receiving a million word cheque when the class has read a million words.

We hope you find this information helpful and would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued efforts in supporting reading at home.