

Dear Parents

4 March 2022

We have adopted the Accelerated Reader programme as part of our comprehensive literacy scheme here at Widmer End. The only way to become really good at understanding what we read is through practice. Reading is a skill; so just like an athlete, if we have a good coach who teaches us 'how'; it is up to us to practice to perfect that skill. The only way to get better at reading is to ... **READ!**

What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader 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 understood what was read.) Accelerated Reader gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set targets and direct ongoing reading practice.

Children using Accelerated Reader choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they are reading books at their reading and interest levels, they are likely to be successful. This is satisfying for most children. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace.

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

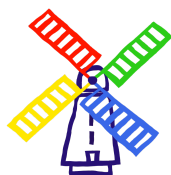
Teachers determine your child's reading level in one of three ways: a STAR Reading™ test, a reading age estimation from a standardised test, or by using his/her best professional judgement based on his/her knowledge of your child.

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 20 minutes.

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, or teachers can use their best professional judgement to determine a ZPD. It is



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important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs. ZPDs should be adjusted based on the needs of your child.

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

In KS1 all children are part of the Read, Write Inc programme to support their phonetic development in reading and writing. As their oral reading fluency develops they will be introduced to Accelerated Reader.

Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers, from children with special needs to those who are gifted and talented. When children read books at an appropriate level, they experience success. Furthermore, teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's reading level.

How will I know if a book has an Accelerated Reader quiz?

To know which quizzes your school has available, contact your child's teacher or librarian. You can also visit Accelerated Reader Bookfinder at www.arbookfind.co.uk to conduct a search of all available books with Accelerated Reader quizzes.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. 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, letting your child see you reading and discussing books that each of you have read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child is comprehending what is read. Reading with your child, no matter what the child's age, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a lifelong love of reading and learning and creating a loving relationship between you and your child. Make learning a family affair!

Please see your child's class teacher for any more information regarding Accelerated Reader.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs L van der Merwe

Reading Coordinator