Accelerated Reader – Further information

As part of our strategy this year to improve children’s attainment in reading we will be using the ‘Accelerated Reader’ (AR) programme. This structured reading programme allows children to choose books from our school library that are at the best level to challenge them whilst also promoting reading for pleasure. Once a child has finished a book they will complete a short quiz to gauge their understanding of the book.

There are thousands of books linked to the AR programme and children can complete a quiz at home or in school. To find out if a book has a linked quiz children can search the title on a dedicated website. To access this website follow this link: <https://ukhosted98.renlearn.co.uk/6984984/>  A copy of the link has also been shared on the ‘Pupils’ section of the school website under ‘Accelerated Reader’.

**How can I help my child become a better reader?**

As with anything, performance improves with practice. According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Encourage your child to read at home, discuss books, ask questions about what they have read and visit your local library.

**What is a STAR Reading test?**

At certain points throughout the year children will take part in a STAR Reading assessment. The STAR Reading is used to determine your child’s reading level. It is a computer based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child’s responses. If the child’s response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child cannot answer a question or answers incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 10 minutes.

**What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?**

ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD, or reading range after taking a STAR Reading test. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within his/her ZPD.

**What are points?**

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a points value. AR points are based on the length of the book (number of words). Pupils earn a percentage of points according to how well they pass the quiz.

I hope this information gives you some insight in to the AR programme.