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Headteacher: Mr Paul Bertram N.P.Q.H.

Thursday 5th September 2024

Accelerated Reader

Dear Parents/Carers,

As most of you will be aware, for the majority of children, from the beginning Year 3, we currently use the Accelerated Reader program to support their independent reading. Below is some information, outlining what the program is and how it works for your information. The children were assessed at the end of last year to determine their current Book Level range, which will be written in their reading diary and sent home with an appropriate book. The children will be asked to choose books within this level as their reading books (and will be reassessed at the end of each half term), although we are also happy for the children to borrow books of any level to share with an adult at home if they would like to. Please support your child to read at home as often as possible (at least 4/5 times per week is ideal) and ensure they bring their reading book and diary into school every day so that we can monitor their reading and support them to take quizzes and change books – see below for more information! We will also be using their reading books to read regularly in school, so it is important they are in school every day.

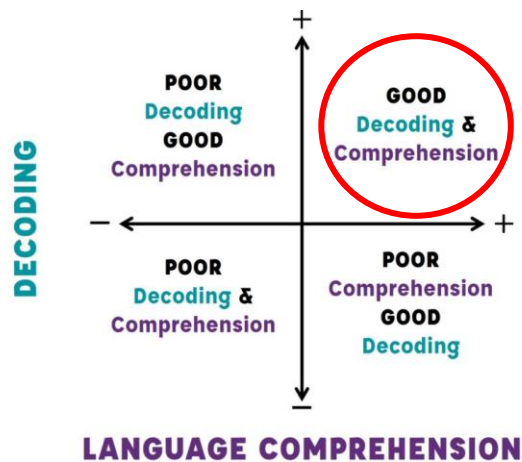
Thank you for your continued support with reading at home – it really does have a huge impact on the children's success at school.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Turega

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a popular reading program used in thousands of schools to motivate children in Key Stage 2 to read independently and to increase their reading & vocabulary comprehension, as well as to help teachers monitor reading practice and progress. This is important as there is a proven link between strong reading skills and academic success – great readers make great learners! In order to read successfully, children must be able to competently comprehend what they are reading, as well as decode the words, and AR aims to ensure reading books are appropriate for the children’s level of understanding, as well as their level of reading fluency. Our aim is for all children to achieve good decoding and comprehension in order to read successfully, as shown on The Simple View of Reading diagram below.



How does AR work?

Your child will read books at their Zone of Proximal Development level (ZPD or Book Level) – this level can be found in their reading diaries and will be updated every half term. The ZPD Level (Book Level) comes from a STAR Reading Assessment that we complete with the children at the end of every half term. Star Assessments are computer-based multiple-choice reading assessments. The questions continually adjust to your child’s responses, making the difficulty easier or harder where appropriate.

Your child will then pick a reading book in their own book level and read it at their own pace. When finished, they will take a short quiz on an iPad and by passing the quiz, the children show their understanding of the text they have read. These quizzes will be completed during school time. The children gain points by reading books and taking quizzes and these achievements will be celebrated at school. ZPD or Book Levels can be found on the orange stickers on the outside of your child’s reading book and on the white sticker inside the front cover.

How can I help my child?

1. Promote reading at home: encourage them to read regularly, either independently or to you, depending on their level.
2. Ask your child about the current book they are reading and how they are doing in their quizzes. Talking about a book will help improve your child’s understanding.