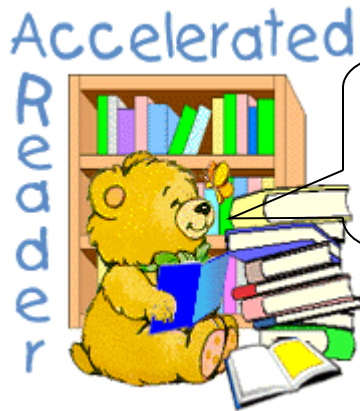


School Vision

We nurture and develop children's love of learning through an innovative and creative school environment. Our distinctive Christian Ethos permeates all aspects of school life, developing confident and respectful learners. We value the importance of being at the heart of the community, linking school, church and families, past, present, and future. Our forward looking school aims to be challenging and inspiring, enabling children to develop the independence to guide them through life as citizens of the world.



I LOVE READING BOOKS AT HOME AND SCHOOL!

How can I support my child at home?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read daily. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library on a regular basis, Let your child see you reading - discuss books that each of you has read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child understands what he/she is reading.

For more information on supporting your child to read we have produced a 'Supporting Your Child With Reading' leaflet available from outside the office.



How will I know how my child is doing?

A TOPS Report prints automatically after a child takes a quiz to give you feedback on your child's understanding of the book and shows cumulative data for the term and school year. The TOPS Report is sent home with your child. You should review the report, sign it, and send it back to school with your child. If your child's school has a Renaissance Place Enterprise version of Accelerated Reader, you can access your child's AR information in Renaissance Place Home Connect* from any Web-enabled computer. You must first gain access to the program from the school. Once in the program, you can view your child's progress toward goals, points, and books read.

You can also access AR BookFinder to search for titles of interest. You can only access information about your child.

A guide to Accelerated Reader



Oveston C.E.V.C.
Primary School

Lifelong learning,
striving for excellence

At Oveston C.E.V.C. Primary School, we are committed to support your child's reading in as many ways as possible.

Therefore we have selected a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice.

This program is called Accelerated Reader (AR)



This guide is designed to answer your questions about AR. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or visit the Accelerated Reader Web site at www.renlearn.com.

Questions and Answers

How Does AR Work?

Your child will pick a book (at his/her reading level) and read 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.)

AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice. This will take place alongside the high quality guided reading sessions that your child currently experiences.

Children using AR 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.

A member of staff will help your child choose books at an appropriate reading level. The books will be challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success. If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher may help him/her:

- Choose another book that is more appropriate.
- Ask more probing questions as your child reads and before he takes a quiz.
- Pair your child with another pupil, or even have the book read to your child.

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they're 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?

Your child's reading level will be determined in three ways: by taking a STAR Reading™ test, a National Curriculum level derived from reading comprehension tasks and by class teachers using professional judgment gained from guided reading sessions. This will provide an accurate reading level for your child and ensure that they will be assigned the correct ZPD level.

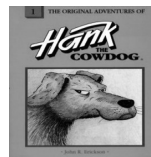
ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) is the range of books that will challenge your child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension.

What is a STAR Reading test?

STAR Reading is a computerized reading assessment 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 misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 10 minutes.

What are points?

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. AR points are computed based on the difficulty of the book (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words). For example, the *Berenstain Bears* books, which are about 8,000 words long and have an average reading level of 3.5, are 1-point books. *Hank the Cowdog*, which is about 23,000 words long and has an average reading level of 4.5, is a 3-point book.



What if my child doesn't like reading?

Accelerated Reader has the reluctant reader at its centre. Not only are books matched with reading ability, they are matched for interest and age appropriate content. Using AR, your child chooses the books he wants to read (from his/her allocated range) and on completion of the book takes a short Reading Quiz. Success on the quiz will encourage your child to read more. With success comes confidence and increased self esteem!

Children using AR are encouraged to progress at their own pace and set their own goals with the help of the teacher. Every book has a points value determined by the difficulty of the book and the length of the book. Children earn points as they successfully complete quizzes.

My child already does well in school.

Why does she need this?

Even if a child is gifted at playing a musical instrument, she has to practice to develop her talent. Bright children, like all children, need to be challenged. Teachers using AR software in their classrooms find it easy to guide each student to books that give the child both challenge and success, regardless of the child's level.

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

Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers, from students 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 goals based on each child's reading level.