



Dear parents/carers,

Your child is now moving on to the next step in their journey of learning to read. This is exciting, as it shows they are now a speedy, accurate reader. So, what next? When your child is fluent enough to complete our phonics programme, they move on to using Accelerated Reader (AR). What follows here is an introduction to AR and some further information about how it all works.

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer programme that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks books at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on an iPad/computer - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what they have read. Since they are reading books at their own reading and interest levels, most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. According to Renaissance Learning's 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 the local library. The following are our expectations of reading at home:

Years 1 and 2	10mins 4x per week
Years 3 and 4	15mins 4x per week
Years 5 and 6	20mins 4x per week

What is a STAR Reading test?

STAR Reading is used to determine your child's reading level. It is a computer-based 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 increases. If the child cannot answer a question or answers incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 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 after taking a STAR Reading test. It is important for the children to read with a high degree of comprehension within their ZPD. Your child's ZPD indicates which book levels they may choose from the school library. The levels range from 0.5-13.5. Your child's ZPD is recorded in their learning log.

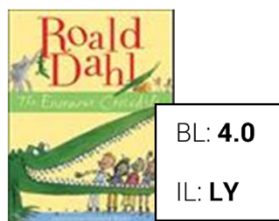
What are points?

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 the points according to how well they pass the quiz.

What is interest level?

The interest level indicates for which age group a book is appropriate, based on the content and themes. These are recommendations only and parents and teachers are recommended to use their best judgement when guiding pupils.

Interest Level	Age
LY—Lower Years	5 - 8
MY—Middle Years	9 - 13
UY—Upper Years	14+



What achievements can my child work towards?

Children are motivated throughout the term by achieving success on their books quizzes, but we have other incentives in place too:

Reading Targets - Each child has a personalised reading target, which is calculated based on how long they should read for each day and their ZPD level. Targets are set termly and, when they are achieved, will be raised so that children always have something to work towards. When children meet their target for the first time each term, they are awarded a certificate and entered into a prize draw; the winners of which head down to Gilks' Café for a hot chocolate and book talk. The first child to have their name drawn out also receives a new book of their choosing, kindly paid for by Gilks'. Progress towards targets can be monitored on the AR website, for which you can find a link in your child's learning log.

Certifications - Across the year, children also work towards certifications such as Ready Reader, Star Reader and Super Reader. For each level earned, they will receive a certificate. Details on criteria for these certifications can be found below.

Word Half-Millionaire and Word Millionaires - the most impressive of all reading awards. Children who read 500,000 and 1,000,000 words in a school year achieve the status of 'Half Word Millionaire' or 'Word Millionaire' - these children receive a certificate, word millionaires also receive a gold pin badge.



Accelerated reader CERTIFICATIONS

Ready Reader	Earn five points on any books.
Independent Reader	Read independently and pass quizzes for 3 books at level 1.2 or higher. Earn 10 points from books at any level. <small>Points earned for Ready Reader do not count.</small>
Rising Reader	Read independently and pass quizzes for 3 books at level 1.6 or higher. Earn 10 points by reading independently.
Super Reader	Read independently and pass quizzes for 3 books at level 2 or higher worth 1 or more points each.
Advanced Reader	Read independently and pass quizzes for 3 books at level 3 or higher worth 2 or more points each.
Star Reader	Read independently and pass quizzes for 3 books at level 4 or higher worth 4 or more points each.
Classic Reader	Read independently and pass quizzes for 3 books at level 6 or higher worth 7 or more points each.
Honours Reader	Read independently and pass quizzes on a carefully selected list of 10 books chosen by your teacher.