



# Accelerated Reader

Parents' Guide

Accelerated Reader is being used well now at Dean Field and we have a good amount of books categorised into the ZPD ranges. We now have these books stored in a central library area.

The following information is designed to help parents understand a little bit more about Accelerated Reader and how/why we are using it at Dean Field.

### What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a computer program that monitors your child's independent reading (reading by themselves). Your child chooses a book (KS1 children with the help of an adult) that is the correct book for their reading level. By allowing children to choose their own books this gives children ownership of what they are reading and makes reading more enjoyable for them.

Once your child has finished reading their book we recommend they read it again to make sure they fully understand it before taking a quiz. Passing the quiz gives us an idea of whether the child has understood the book they have read. The teacher then uses this information to help with their teacher assessments at the end of each half term.

If your child does not do well on a quiz, the teacher may help him/her:

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

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 much will my child read during the school day?

According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate (average percentage correct) on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Therefore, your child will have at least 20 minutes set aside for reading during each school day.

### 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!

### What if my child does not like reading?

Using Accelerated Reader, your child will choose the books he/she wants to read. The teacher will make certain the book is at the right level so that after completing the book, your child should do well on the AR Reading Practice Quiz. Success on the quiz will encourage your child to read more. With guidance from the teacher and success, even students who say they do not like reading will develop a love of reading.

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

Teachers determine your child's reading level using different information: a STAR Reading™ Test which is part of Accelerated Reader, your child's Accelerated Reader quizzes, NFER standardised tests we will be taking at the end of each term and also the knowledge of your child's reading abilities that they have from reading with them and teaching phonics or comprehension to them each day. As well as dedicated Accelerated Reader time each day all children will have either a daily phonics lessons or a comprehension session with their teacher; this is in addition to

their hour of English each day. This is what is needed at Dean Field to rapidly raise standards in reading and writing.

**My child already does well in school. Why does he/she need this?**

Even if a child is gifted at playing a musical instrument, the child has to practice to develop his or 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 targets based on each child's reading level.

**How will I know how my child is doing?**

Your child should write the score they get on their AR quiz in their reading record in pink pen so it is visible. A score of 70-90% shows a good level of challenge. A score of 100% each time suggests that perhaps the books are too easy and not challenging.

enough. If your child's score is 0-40% then they need to go down a ZPD range to try a different range of books.