

Dear Parents,

We have adopted the Accelerated Reader programme as part of our comprehensive English scheme at Lower Park. The only way to become really good at understanding what we read is through practice. Reading is a skill; so just like an athlete, if we have a good coach who teaches us 'how'; we can then work hard to perfect that skill. However, the only way to get better at reading is to ... **READ!**

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR is a programme used to motivate students to increase their reading & vocabulary comprehension and guide them to independent reading. AR is a popular reading programme used in thousands of schools. There is a proven link between strong reading skills and academic success - great readers make great learners! This compliments our goal of having each child reading independently for at least 20-30 minutes per day at school *and* at home.

Online Program

With the AR Online programme, children will not only be able to quiz on the books available through our school library and in our classrooms, but also books at home, in any library and in any bookshop. You can check whether a book is on the AR programme by scanning the QR codes sent home with your child or by visiting www.arbookfind.co.uk. There is also an AR Bookfinder app which can be downloaded.

How does AR work?

1. Each child is tested & assigned a colour/book level based on the result of their test (the test will give a reading age and a ZPD score, which tells us the best colour level to challenge and support each child).
2. Students then choose an AR book based on their interest and reading level.
3. When they have finished reading the book, they take the AR quiz on the website to assess their comprehension. This will be done at school during silent reading or at home (without help from an adult).
4. The child earns points (based on how many words they have read) for showing an understanding of the text. They earn full points by answering all test questions correctly. (Children who average at least an 85% on quizzes are considered to understand what they read at an average level.)

How can I help my child?

1. Promote reading at home:
 - encourage them to read;
 - read to them;
 - let them see you reading;
 - encourage them to carry their book wherever they go - so they are always ready to read!
2. Ask about the current book they are reading and their point goals.
3. Give lots of encouragement and congratulate them when they reach their goal.

Thank you for your continued support,

KS2 Staff

