



**Newhampton Church of England  
Schools Federation**

**Accelerated Reader  
Information for Parents**

Newtown Church of England Primary School

&

Welshampton Church of England Primary School

**2024-2025**

# Information for parents

## What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is used as part of our comprehensive reading programme. While we continue to teach the skills of reading in class through shared texts, the AR books chosen by your child will provide them with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed. Pupils using AR are encouraged to progress at their own pace and they have personalised targets based on their reading ability. The aim of AR is for all children to succeed in achieving their targets.

## Why are we using Accelerated Reader?

- Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers from pupils with special needs to those who are avid and confident readers.
- Accelerated Reader encourages children to read for at least thirty minutes each day and rewards effort and achievement.
- When children read books at their appropriate level they experience success and grow in confidence and reading stamina.
- The teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's current reading ability or attainment.

## Star Reading

A computer-adaptive reading test used to assess pupils' reading ability and to determine their recommended reading levels for Accelerated Reader. Measures growth over time.

## Accelerated Reader

A database of quizzes to test the comprehension of books read. Provides instant feedback and monitoring.

## What are STAR Reading Tests?

Every child taking part in AR will complete a **STAR** reading test at the beginning of the year and at the end of each term. It is a multiple choice reading assessment completed individually on the computer at school. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses so if their response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If they miss a question or give an incorrect answer, the difficulty level is reduced. The test comprises of 34 multiple choice questions and takes approximately 20-30 minutes. Every test for every child is different, and the computer selects different questions for each student dependent on how well they answer the previous questions. Essentially, the computer adapts the test to suit your child. The STAR reading test, along with teacher judgement assists in identifying your child's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) range.

## What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

After your child takes a **STAR** reading test, the AR software will assess the results and give him/her a ZPD reading range. The range aims to challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will know their ZPD range and the books they should be choosing. There is a record of this in their reading records. A ZPD can change throughout the year based on **STAR** reading tests, professional judgement and quiz results. Please try not to compare your child's ZPD with that of other children. Your child is reading at a ZPD that is appropriate for where they need to be. Each child is an individual, with individual needs, capabilities, interests and abilities and AR caters for this.

Practising with books that are too hard results in frustration. Practising with books that are too easy does little to improve skills and leads to boredom. The ZPD represents the level of difficulty that is neither too hard nor too easy, and is the level at which optimal learning takes place. To encourage a love of reading, we will not strictly control students' choices within their ZPDs. If your child would like to try a 'challenging' text, they are still able to complete quizzes for them as long as it is on the AR catalogue.

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

## AR Book Levels & ZPD

**Book Level** - Each book on the Accelerated Reader system has a book level which represents the difficulty of the text. This is calculated using ATOS formula based on average length of sentences, length of words and the difficulty in the level of words.

**ZPD** - Your child's individual range of book levels recommended for their reading ability. Below is an example for a child with a ZPD range of 3.2 – 5.0. They would be encouraged to choose books within these book levels.



## Book Level, Interest Level & Points

**Book Level** - Difficulty of text (range: 0.2 – 13.5)

**Interest Level** - Relates to content and appropriateness.

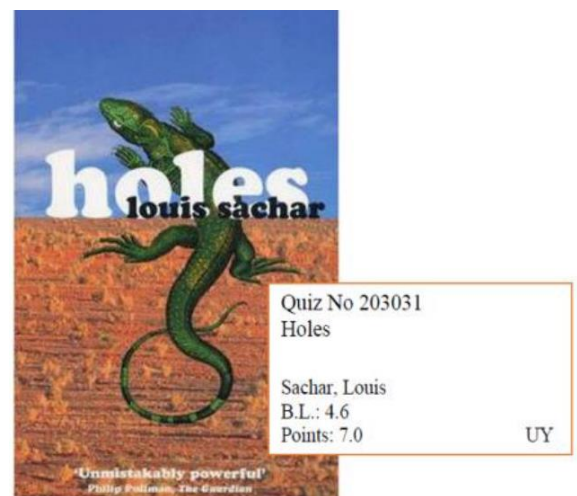
LY - Lower Years ages 5-8

MY - Middle Years ages 9-13

MY+ - Middle Years Plus ages 12-13

UY - Upper Years ages 14+

**Points** - Text length (points range from: 0.5 – 118)



## What are the Accelerated Reader quizzes?

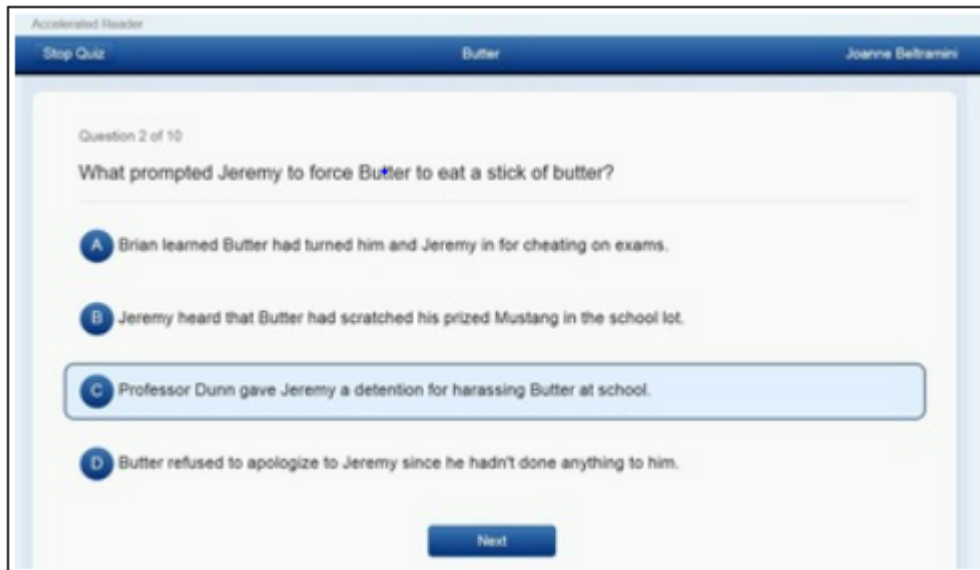
When your child has finished reading a book, they will be given time to take a quiz independently on the computer.

**There are two main types of quizzes your child will take:**

**Reading Practice Quizzes** - These are the most common type of assessment. The purpose is to determine whether your child has read a book, measure your child's literal comprehension of the book and provide immediate feedback. Each quiz consists of 3, 5, 10 or 20 multiple-choice questions depending on the book level and length.

**Vocabulary Practice Quizzes** - These measure a child's command of vocabulary words encountered while reading. They are designed to reinforce vocabulary acquisition, assist with individualising vocabulary instruction and generate your child's interest in words through authentic, in-context literature experiences. Quizzes include 5, 10 or 15 words from a particular book as well as review words from previously read books.

## Reading Practice Question Example



## Taking a Reading Practice Quiz

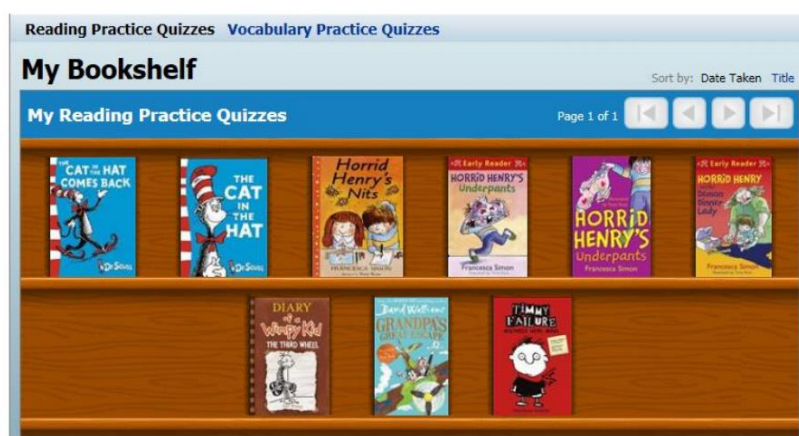
- Quizzes consist of 3, 5, 10 and 20 questions depending on the book level. There is no time limit
- The pass rate for 3 question quizzes is 67%; for 5 and 10 question quizzes it is 60%; and on 20 question quizzes 70%.
- Results are immediately displayed so children can see how well they have done.
- Points are calculated on a pro rata basis depending on how well children do on their quiz.
- Some books have a vocabulary practice quiz that can be taken as well.

There are some important rules for taking quizzes:

- ✓ The quiz should take place as soon as possible after the completion of the book. Each class has a weekly allocated time to take quizzes in the computing suite.
- ✓ A student should not take a quiz until they have read the entire text.
- ✓ Quizzes must be done individually, not with anyone's help.

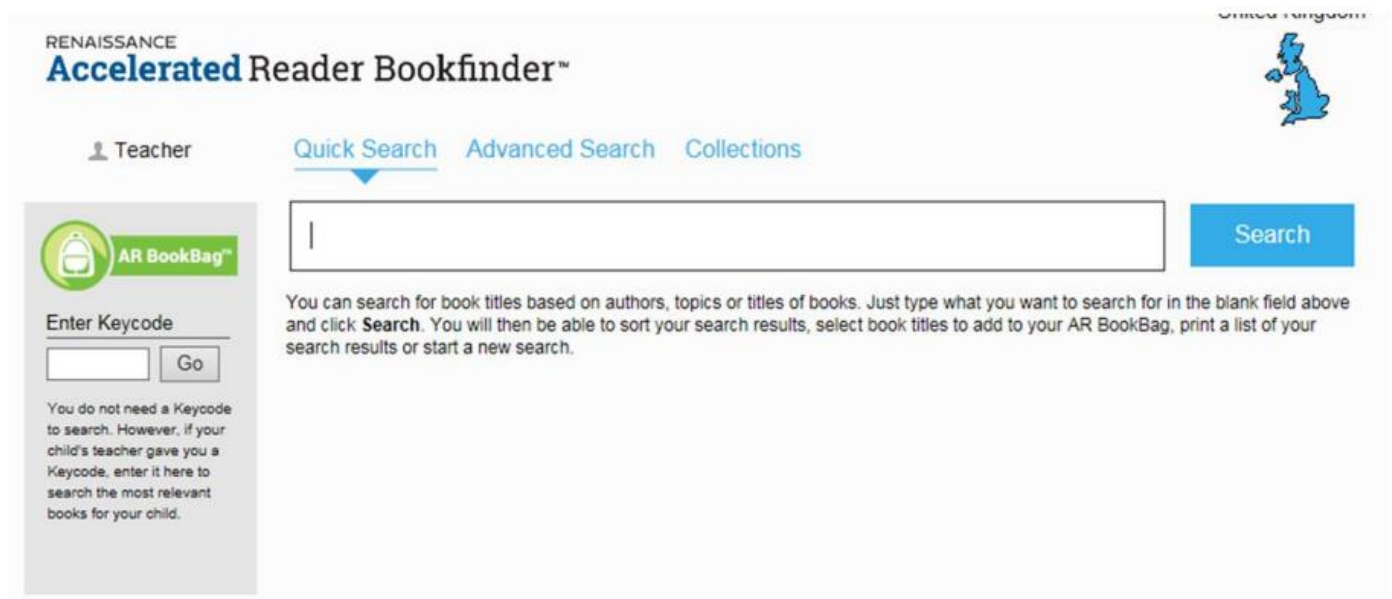
## Monitoring Progress

Children can see what books they have read and how they performed on the quizzes. The programme also gives them suggestions on what to read next based on their interest and ability. Children see a sunflower or graph, depending on their year group, which builds up as they pass quizzes.



## AR Bookfinder

Visit the AR Bookfinder to conduct a search of all available books with Accelerated Reader quizzes. There are over 210,000 Accelerated Reader quizzes available. <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>



The screenshot shows the Renaissance Accelerated Reader Bookfinder website. At the top, the logo reads 'RENAISSANCE Accelerated Reader Bookfinder™'. In the top right corner, there is a small map of the United Kingdom. Below the logo, there are navigation links: 'Teacher' (with a person icon), 'Quick Search' (highlighted with a blue arrow), 'Advanced Search', and 'Collections'. On the left side, there is a section for 'AR BookBag™' which includes a green bag icon and a text box labeled 'Enter Keycode' with a 'Go' button. Below this, a message states: 'You do not need a Keycode to search. However, if your child's teacher gave you a Keycode, enter it here to search the most relevant books for your child.' In the center, there is a large search input field. To the right of the input field is a blue 'Search' button. Below the input field, a paragraph explains: 'You can search for book titles based on authors, topics or titles of books. Just type what you want to search for in the blank field above and click **Search**. You will then be able to sort your search results, select book titles to add to your AR BookBag, print a list of your search results or start a new search.'

Your child can bring in books from home to read as part of AR if their teacher feels they are suitable. When school is open, quizzes will generally be conducted in school.

### What if my child doesn't perform well on a quiz?

If your child does not do well on the quiz, the class teacher may help your child:

- Choose another book that is more appropriate.
- Ask more probing questions as your child reads and before your child takes 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'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.

### My child already does well in school.

Why do they need this? Even if a child is gifted at playing a musical instrument, they have to practice to develop their talent. Gifted children, like all children, need to be challenged. Teachers using Accelerated Reader are able to guide each pupil to books that give the child both challenge and success, regardless of the child's level.

### My child is not a strong reader. Can they still use Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers, from pupils with special needs to those who are gifted and talented. When children read books at an appropriate level, they experience success. Furthermore, teachers and librarians work with children to set appropriate goals based on each child's reading level.

### 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 bookstore on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading, and discussing books that each of you has 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!

### **AR Target Setting**

**Average percent correct** - The most important goal for all pupils is to average at least 85% on quizzes. This indicates a child is reading with a high level of comprehension, which accelerates reading growth. Averages of 90 percent are associated with even greater gains.

**Points** - Point goals indicate how much reading pupils are expected to do. Accelerated Reader provides point goals that are appropriate for each child's reading ability, the amount of time that teachers schedule for daily reading practice, and the length of the marking period. In this way, point goals are individualized, fair, and realistic.

### **How are book points allocated?**

Every book that has an Accelerated Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. 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 Horrid Henry books, which are about 5,135 words long and have an average ATOS book level of 3.3, are 1.0-point books. Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone is 77,325 words long and has an average ATOS book level of 6.0, is a 12-point book. Children earn points, or a portion of a book's points, depending on how well they do on the Accelerated Reading Practice Quiz.

For example:

- a child who takes a 5-question quiz on a book worth 1 point will earn 1 point for 5 correct answers (100%), 0.8 point for 4 correct answers (80%), etc.
- a child who reads a book worth 5 points and takes a 10-question quiz will earn 5 points for 10 correct answers (100%), 4.5 points for 9 correct answers (90%), etc. For quizzes with 3, 5, or 10 questions, a child needs to pass a quiz with a score of 60% or higher to earn points. For quizzes with 20 questions, a child needs to pass with a score of 70% or higher to earn points. There are over 160,000 Accelerated Reader quizzes available!!!

**Average book level** - The book-level goal helps ensure pupils read at a level appropriate for them as individuals. It represents a minimum level of difficulty. Goals are set at the low end of students' ZPDs to encourage them to read freely throughout an appropriate range.