



ACCELERATED READER: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer.

Children using Accelerated Reader choose their own books to read, rather than having one picked for them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.

How does Accelerated Reader work?

Our children will take a STAR Reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's answers. If the child's answer is correct, the difficulty level goes up. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level goes down. The test uses multiple-choice questions and it takes around 20 minutes to complete.

After undertaking this assessment, the class teacher is then provided with a range of information related to your child's reading ability. This includes: their reading age, the difficulty range of books that your child should be reading (ZPD) and how children can be supported to improve their reading comprehension.

Your child then picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child is then able to take a short quiz on the computer or iPad. Time is available every day for children to complete their Accelerated Reader quizzes. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.)

According to research, children who read at least 35 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate (average percent correct) on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Therefore, your child should have at least 35 minutes set aside for reading during each school day. At Diamond Hall we have timetabled Accelerated Reader sessions in school. Each child is then expected to read at home each day – Everyone Every night is our motto. As with anything, performance improves with practice.

How is my child's goal / target set?

Accelerated Reader goals are set using a points system. Goals / targets are set using a child's ZPD level and the time provided for reading practice, this makes sure each child's target is personalised and relevant to their individual ability in reading. Each child will receive a new personalised goal / target at the start of each term. Children can track their progress each time they log in to Accelerated Reader. This is also displayed in their classroom accelerated reading display where pupils are responsible for monitoring their own progress too.

How are book points allocated?

Every book that has an Accelerated Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. Points are worked out 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!!!

Celebrating Achievements:

Within school, we focus on children reaching their targets and also the number of words read. Our children aim to become a 'Word Millionaire' meaning that they have read 1,000,000 words from a range of books. When they achieve this, the children receive a golden book badge and their name appears on the Millionaire wall of fame. We also award milestones on the way to becoming a millionaire through certificates handed out each term.

At the end of each term, those children who have met their targets get a reward. This could include extra break time, time on the adventure playground or a movie afternoon. Staff in school will closely monitor children across the term to ensure they are on track to achieve their goal / target by the end of the term.

How can parents/carers be involved?

At Diamond Hall Junior Academy we try to ensure parents are an integral part of their child's learning. Please share reading with your child regularly regardless of their age or ability. 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 understands 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!

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 will my child take a quiz?

There are two different ways pupils can take Accelerated Reader quizzes at school: on the computer or on a mobile device. Time is allocated during the school day for children to take quizzes when they have completed a book. Your child needs to take a quiz within 24 hours of completing their book where possible. Children may take quizzes of books they have read at home but should make sure they have read and understood each book before completing a quiz. You can use the QR code below to access our school's AR platform where the children can log in.



