

Friday 28th February 2025

Accelerated Reader

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are pleased to say that we will be using a programme called Accelerated Reader to further promote our love of reading and enhance our reading curriculum at Sacred Heart. This will be used by children once they have finished the Read Write Inc programme (usually in Y2).

Accelerated Reader is a 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. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.)

Children using Accelerated Reader choose their own books to read, rather than having one given to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them. Your child will choose books at an appropriate reading level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

Teachers will determine your child's reading level using a Star Reading test. Following this test, your child will be given a ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development). This is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. By reading within this ZPD for at least 70% of the time, children will be best placed to progress in reading.

We have lots of books that the children can choose from in school, however we are also aware that many children like to read their own books from home. You can visit the website www.arbookfind.co.uk to search all of the available books with AR quizzes to see if the book your child wants to read is on the scheme. If not, then it doesn't mean your child can not read the book but that there will be no quiz available. The most important thing is that your child is reading something they enjoy and can access.

The programme also has a special feature called Renaissance Home Connect, which the children can access out of school. The children will bring home a letter with their log in on and how to connect to Renaissance Home Connect.

Next Steps

- Each child will sit the Star Reading Test and be given their ZPD so that they can begin to choose books at an appropriate reading level.
- When they have finished reading the book, they will take the quiz on the website to assess their comprehension. This can be done at school or at home (without help from an adult).

As with everything, performance improves with practise and children who read at least 20 minutes a day with an 85% comprehension rate on the AR quizzes see the greatest gain. Please encourage your child to read at home, discuss their books, ask questions about what they have read. Together, we can help every child succeed and further develop their love of reading.

We have lots of new books in school and have revamped (and re-located) the school library. Thanks to Friends of Sacred Heart and all who support their work as we have used the money from recent fundraising to enable us to provide a high-quality school library.

If you have any questions about Accelerated Reader, please see your child's class teacher.

Kind regards,

Ms. L Tuplin
Headteacher