

January 2023

Dear parent / carer,

### Accelerated Reader in key stage 2

We have recently adopted the Accelerated Reader programme as part of the reading curriculum for children in key stage 2 to further develop, motivate and encourage children to read.

#### What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a programme used to motivate students to increase their reading and 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.

#### How does AR work?

1. Children will complete a Star Reading test in school each half term. This test assigns each child with a ZPD score and reading age.
2. Children will then choose a book in school based on their ZPD score.
3. When they have finished reading the book, they take a quiz using the website below to assess their comprehension. This can be done at school or at home and must be within 24 hours of finishing the book (without help from an adult). <https://ukhosted143.renlearn.co.uk/6703876/default.aspx> This web address can also be found on the school website's homepage.
4. The children will earn points (based on how many words they have read) for showing an understanding of the text.
5. School staff will monitor children's use of Accelerated Reader and put extra support in place, where necessary.

#### How can I help my child using AR?

As with anything, reading and understanding the English language improves with practice. According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day and achieve a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.

- Promote reading at home by: encouraging 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!
- Ask about the current book they are reading and their point goals.
- Give lots of encouragement and congratulate them when they reach their goal.

If you have any questions, please arrange to talk to the class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Miss L Anderson  
Assistant Headteacher

River Bank Primary School, Bath Road, Luton LU3 1ES

Telephone: 01582 531860 Email: [info@riverbankprimary.org](mailto:info@riverbankprimary.org) Web: [www.riverbankprimary.org](http://www.riverbankprimary.org)

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## Information about Accelerated Reader

### Star Reading test

Your child will have already completed a Star Reading test in school. This is an online assessment used to determine a child's English reading level. It is a computer-based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to each child's responses. If the response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If they cannot answer a question, or answer incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes.

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

After completing the Star Reading test, each child is given a ZPD. This is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPD.

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