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Accelerated Reader at Toynton All Saints Primary School

RENAISSANCE™

A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader™

We have begun our new whole school reading journey by joining the Renaissance team and adopting the Accelerated Reader scheme. This letter is designed to give you a quick overview of how reading will run in our school and the benefits from changing our practice.

What is Accelerated Reader? (AR)

" Our primary purpose is to accelerate learning for all children and adults of all ability levels and ethnic and social backgrounds, worldwide."

AR is a computer programme that helps teachers monitor and manage children's independent reading practise from the end of year 1 through to year 6. Your child will pick a book at his/her own level and read it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child will then take a short quiz on the computer. Passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what they have read.

How does this work?

At the start of every half term, your child will take a short STAR reading test. This is a computer-based reading assessment programme that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adapt to the response of your child; if their response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If your child answers incorrectly, or does not answer at all, then difficulty level is decreased. The test is multiple choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. It will identify your child's reading level, allowing them to select the books that will challenge them appropriately, without causing a loss of motivation to read.



Valuing **Respect, Relationships, Resilience, Risk-taking, Resourcefulness and Reflection**



What is a Zone of Proximal Development?

The zone of proximal development (ZPD) is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration. Your child will receive a ZPD after completing their STAR reading test at the start of every term. It is important that children read to a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPD range.

How will my child receive books?

A range of book levels recommended for each student based on their reading ability
The student has free rein to choose books from within their entire ZPD range



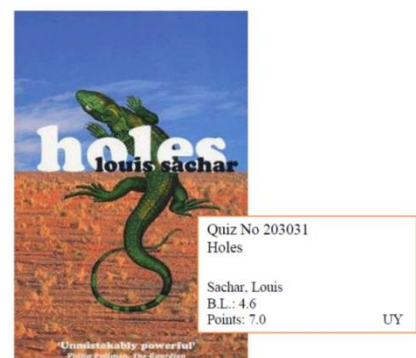
Our school library has been re-organised to suit our new system. Each book is labelled with the book's level, interest level and points available.

- Book levels represent the difficulty of the text. Your child must choose the book level that fits within their ZPD range.
- The interest level indicates for which age group is appropriate, based on the content and themes. These are recommendations only; teachers and parents may use their best judgement when guiding children.

(UY- Upper Years, MY – Middle Years, LY- Lower years)

- Every book linked with an AR practise quiz is given a points value; AR points are based on the length of the book and children will earn a percentage of points according to how well they pass the quiz.

Please note that some children will be repeating books they have previously had from the library.



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How can my child access this from home?

Each child has their own personal log-on details to their online library: MyOn. This library offers access to thousands of books suited to their preferences. The online library allows them to read books online, download books and take AR quizzes. This system will also be used by teachers to set recommended reading, homework tasks and to monitor children's reading at home. The site is very child-friendly and interactive, showing their progress in terms on their ZPD score, the total number of words read and how far away there are from their targets.

When reading a book online, the children can set particular preferences. They are able to have the book read to them, change the speed in which it is read, have the words highlighted to follow and can turn the page themselves. They are able to add their own notes to the story and access a dictionary to research an unfamiliar word.



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[What about my books from home?](#)

Not all books have an AR quiz available but that does not mean that you shouldn't read them! To search if a book has an online quiz follow the link at the end of the newsletter.

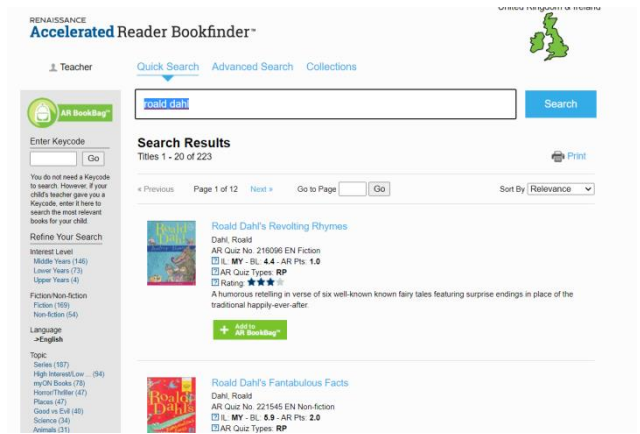
Our whole school aim is to develop a love of reading and encourage reading for pleasure. It is paramount that our children are choosing books that suit their interests and ignite their passions. It is important to remember that children can read books outside of their ZPD range. Those lower will be much easier but they may adore the book; perhaps this is an opportunity to encourage them to read fluently to a sibling or family member? Books higher than their range may be really interesting to them, so this is a chance to read together and talk about the story in depth.

[How can I help at home?](#)

As with anything, performance improves with practise. It is recommended that for a child to progress at the correct pace they must read independently for 20 minutes a day. Encourage your child to read at home, discuss books, ask questions about what they have read and use the online library together as well as your local one. Since the children are reading books at their own reading and interest levels, most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all, your child will learn and grown at their own pace.

[What will be happening in school?](#)

After the children have completed their first STAR reading test, they will have access to our school library books. Within school, the children will have time to be independently reading, taking quizzes and changing their books. Teaching and support staff will be monitoring progress, coaching and intervening where appropriate.



[Important links to get started](#)

MyOn Login:

https://www.myon.co.uk/login/index.html?logoutReason=10&returnTo=%2Fdashboard%2Fstudents.html%3Fcv_method%3Dlocalcv

AR Book finder: <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx?RedirectURL=%2fdefault.aspx>

FAQ: <https://www.renaissance.com/2016/09/09/parents-guide-renaissance-accelerated-reader-360/>

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