



ACCELERATED READER

A Parents' Guide

A Parents' Guide to Accelerated Reader

All year 7 and 8 students will be participating in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. The program is designed to encourage and promote reading for all students. This guide is devised to answer your questions about AR.

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)? AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own reading level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. Passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets and ongoing reading practice.

How does the school determine my child's reading level? Students will sit a STAR Reading Test during the school term. The results from this test will indicate your child's reading level, known as a ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development).

What is a STAR Reading test? STAR Reading is a computer based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child cannot answer a question or answers incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 30 minutes.

How will my son/daughter choose the right book for them? The books have been organised into book levels (BL). Each book will have its own distinct sticker. These have also been organised into boxes. Your son/daughter will be advised by their teacher which box they should be choosing books from.

How will my son/daughter access Accelerated Reader books? Miss Blackwell, our Library Technician, will be conducting a mobile library service during AR lessons. These will take place once a week under the supervision of their English teacher.

Can my son/daughter take books home? Absolutely. Once your son/daughter has selected a book they can take it home to read. Once they have finished reading the book, they can return it to our school librarian and it will be quarantined for 72 hours.

How many books can my son/daughter take out? Due to the restrictions Covid-19 presents, only one book can be issued at any one time. Once returned, your son/daughter can choose another book.

Are there any books we can read online? Yes. We have access to hundreds of free online books which can also be quizzed using the AR system. Free books can be found directly at this website:- <https://www.myon.co.uk/login/> Your son/daughter will be given individual login details to access this.

How will I know if a book has an Accelerated Reader quiz? You can visit Accelerated Reader Bookfinder at www.arbookfind.co.uk to conduct a search of all available books with Accelerated Reader quizzes.

Can my son/daughter quiz at home? Yes. Students **must** use this **direct link** to access AR at home.

<https://ukhosted109.renlearn.co.uk/2234399>

What is considered a 'pass' on an AR quiz? 80% is classed as a pass on the AR quiz. This will be displayed at the end of each quiz.

Can my son/daughter review any incorrect answers? Yes. There is an option where students can revisit their answers.

Can my son/daughter resit their quiz? Unfortunately not. Once a quiz has been taken there is no option to resit it.

How long will an AR quiz take? An AR quiz can take approximately 5-15 minutes, depending on the book level and the individual student.

How will my son/daughter record their reading scores? Each student will be given a reading log booklet. This will enable them to record which books they have read, the BL and their quiz results. This should be filled out each time they read and should be brought into the classroom during every AR lesson.

My child is not a strong reader. Can he/she still use Accelerated Reader? Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers, from students with Additional Learning Needs to those who are Gifted and Talented. When children read books at their appropriate level, they experience success. Furthermore, teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's reading level.

How often should my son/daughter be reading? We recommend that children should be reading for at least 20 minutes a day. National research and our own experience here at Elfed High School shows that those who read for at least 30 minutes a day, with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes, see the greatest gains. Performance improves when students regularly practise their reading.

What if my son/daughter misplaces their login details? Parents can email Miss Blackwell directly at blackwellj28@hwbcymru.net and the password will be reset. Students will then be asked to create their own unique password. We suggest that students write this down and keep it safe. Students can also inform their teachers of any issues and they will be resolved ASAP.

Will there be any reading competitions? At the end of each week, Miss Blackwell will look at how many words each class has read. This data will be presented in a class

leaderboard and will be shared with the students and online. Rewards will be presented throughout the school year.

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. Start a home library, visit your local library or bookshop on a regular basis and let your child see you read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child understands what they are reading.

Thank you for your continued support.