



March 2024

Dear parent/carer

Stanborough School is passionate about reading and literacy. All students in Years 7-9 have Accelerated Reader lessons in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC). We would like to share how we support and monitor progress during Key Stage 3.

### **A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader:**

#### **What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?**

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor a child's independent reading practice. Children pick either a physical book that falls within their ZPD level or choose to read from the recommended passing the quiz is an indication that the child has understood what has been read. If they are reading at the recommended level for them, then most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace.

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

A ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Each child will receive a ZPD, or reading range, it can be found on the front of your child's reading log, after taking a Star Reading test. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPD.

#### **What is Star Reading?**

Star Reading 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 20-30 minutes completed three times a year.

#### **What are Book Levels?**

All books on the Accelerated Reader quiz have been levelled based on difficulty of the text to enable a quick match to children who should be able to read & understand them. Book levels are reported using the ATOS™ readability formula range from 0.1–20.0.

#### **How can I help my child?**

As with anything, reading and understanding English language improves with practice. According to Renaissance research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day and achieve a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Encourage your child to read at home with the English language audio track, discuss books, and ask questions about what they have read.

- Grow and Succeed -

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### **What are Interest levels & points?**

Every book that has an AR quiz is assigned an Interest Level to identify which age group a book is appropriate for, based on the content and themes within the book. These are recommendations only and Interest Levels Age:

LY (Lower Years) 5 – 8

MY (Middle Years) 9 – 13

MY (Middle Years Plus) Ages12+

UY (Upper Years) 14+

Each AR quizzed book also has a point value calculated to denote the length & time of the reading experience. AR points are based on the length of the book (number of words). Pupils earn a percentage of points according to how well they pass the quiz.

### **How can I find further information?**

For Star Reading and Accelerated Reader, each child accesses a specific website set up for our school. Visit AR Book Finder at [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) to search through all the available books on the Renaissance system with AR quizzes.

**In September your child will be given a login to the Home Connect website. Your child and you will be able to access home connect outside of school from any computer with an internet connection. Home Connect allows you to view information about your child's progress. It also allows you to sign up to receive email notifications after your child completes an activity or assessment at school.**

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'N Wilson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ms Wilson  
LRC Manager

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