Accelerated Reader at Aldryngton

Autumn 2026

Mrs Emma Dunn

Aims of our session today

- To find out what Accelerated Reader (AR) is
- To understand why we have adopted it at Aldryngton
- To learn about the benefits of AR
- To see how Key Stage 2 are using AR in class and the impact it is having
- To help parents understand how they can support their child's reading



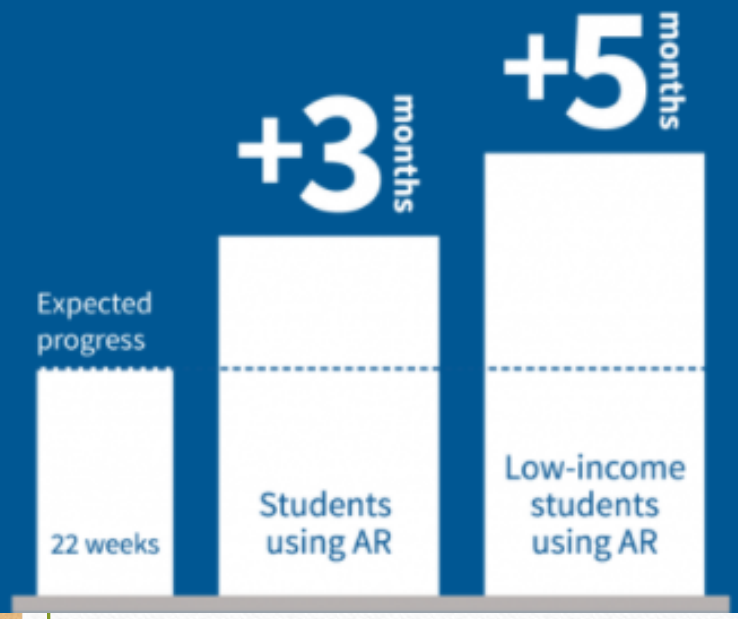
Fostering a love of reading



Why choose to adopt Renaissance Learning & Accelerated Reader at Aldryngton?

Accelerated Reader is a computer program produced by Renaissance Learning that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. A child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, the child takes a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that the child understood what was read.) Accelerated Reader gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set targets and direct ongoing reading practice. It is also a useful way to keep track of what children are reading.

Significant improvement



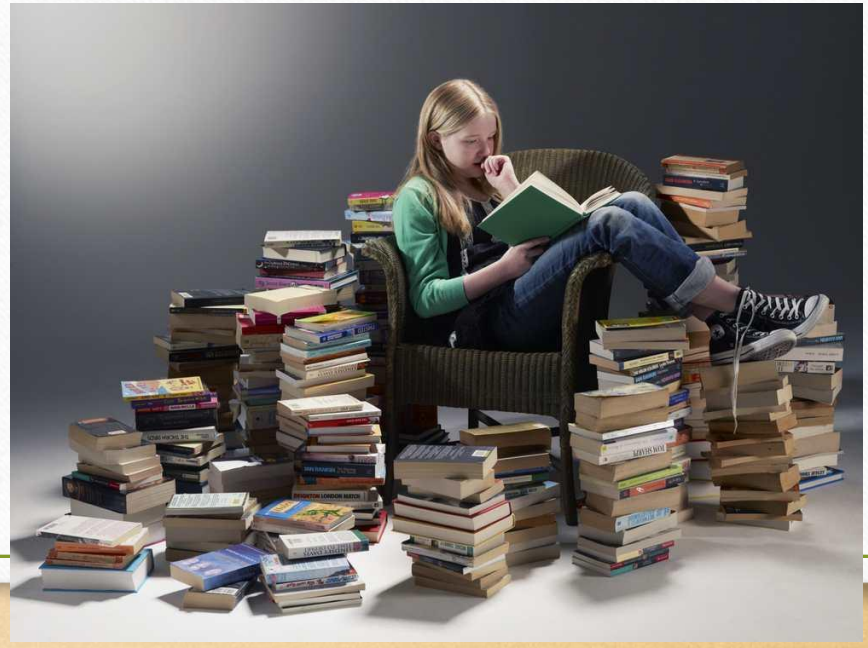
Accelerated Reader produces "particularly positive effects" according to an independent study by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and Durham University.

"The internet-based programme increased the reading age of pupils by three additional months in just 22 weeks. The effect on low-income pupils was even greater, with their reading age improving by five additional months in the same amount of time."

Accelerated Reader gives students significantly greater choice in levelled books and quizzes than any comparable reading programme.

Over 37,000 reading practice quizzes are available on books from over 300 publishers and imprints. Independent of any publishing interests and suitable for students of primary and secondary age, AR ensures that there are plenty of books to interest every reader available on the programme.

The dedicated online book-searching tool Accelerated Reader BookFinder is publicly available to students, parents and teachers so they can identify appropriate books that are also of interest.



Children using Accelerated Reader choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.

Teachers help children choose books at an appropriate reading level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

If your child does not do well on a quiz, the teacher may help him/her:

- Choose another book that is more appropriate
- Ask more probing questions as your child reads and before taking a quiz
- Pair your child with another student, or even have the book read to your child

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they are reading books at their reading and interest levels, they are likely to be successful. This is satisfying for most children. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace.

Research-based recommendations underpin the best practices for Accelerated Reader implementation. The importance of daily personalised reading practice cannot be overstated. Recent studies indicate that when students spend 25 minutes a day reading suitably challenging books which they successfully comprehend (demonstrated by achieving 90% or more on the reading practice quiz), then they will achieve optimal reading age growth. This is the power of personalised practice.



Why read for 20 minutes a day?

CHILD A	CHILD B	CHILD C
reads 20 minutes per day	reads 5 minutes per day	reads 1 minute per day
hears 1,800,000 words per year	hears 282,000 words per year	hears 8,000 words per year
scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests	scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests	scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests

NLT data shows that significantly more pupils who use Accelerated Reader:

- enjoy reading
- have a favourite book
- agree that reading is cool
- read regularly outside class
- think positively about reading

Boys who use Accelerated Reader are more likely to:

- enjoy reading
- agree that reading is cool
- read more actual books in a typical month

Girls who use Accelerated Reader are more likely to:

- enjoy reading
- see themselves as readers
- read outside class at least once a week

National Literacy Trust

The NLT data confirms that more pupils who use AR enjoy reading, read frequently and think more positively about reading than their peers who do not use AR.

Children and young people who use AR are also more likely to see themselves as readers, are more likely to have a favourite book or story and are more likely to read more books outside class than their peers not using AR.



What if my child does not like reading?

Using Accelerated Reader, your child will choose the books he/she wants to read. The teacher will make certain the book is at the right level so that after completing the book, your child should do well on the Accelerated Reader Reading Practice Quiz. Success on the quiz will encourage your child to read more. With guidance from the teacher and success, even students who say they do not like reading will develop a love of reading.

I am concerned that my child will be unfairly compared to others.

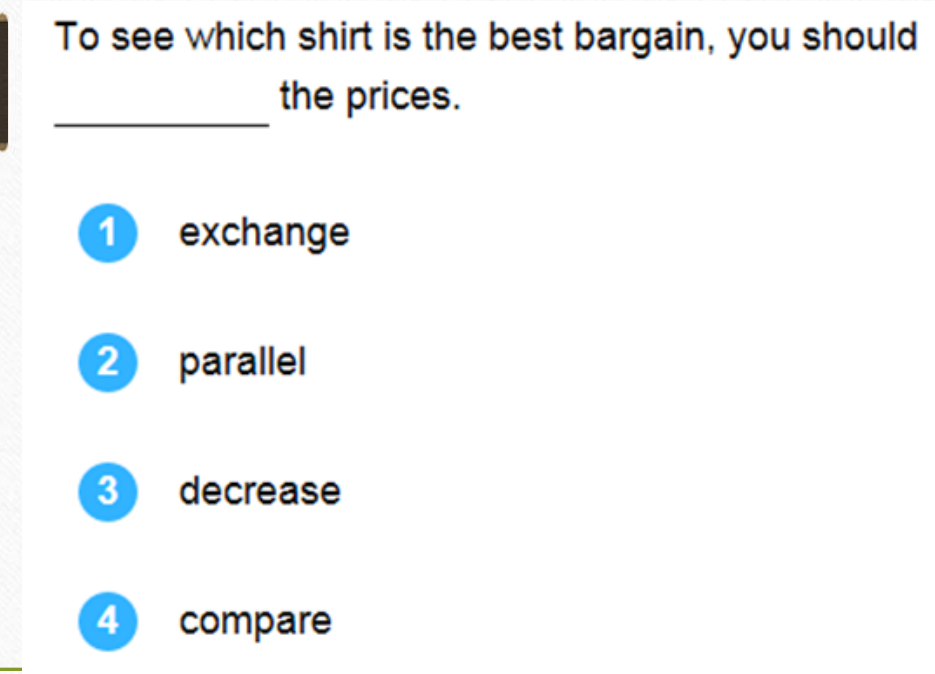
Then you will really like Accelerated Reader because it helps the teacher work with each child individually. Students using Accelerated Reader are encouraged to progress at their own pace and set their own targets with the help of the teacher. The aim of Accelerated Reader is for all children to succeed in achieving their targets.

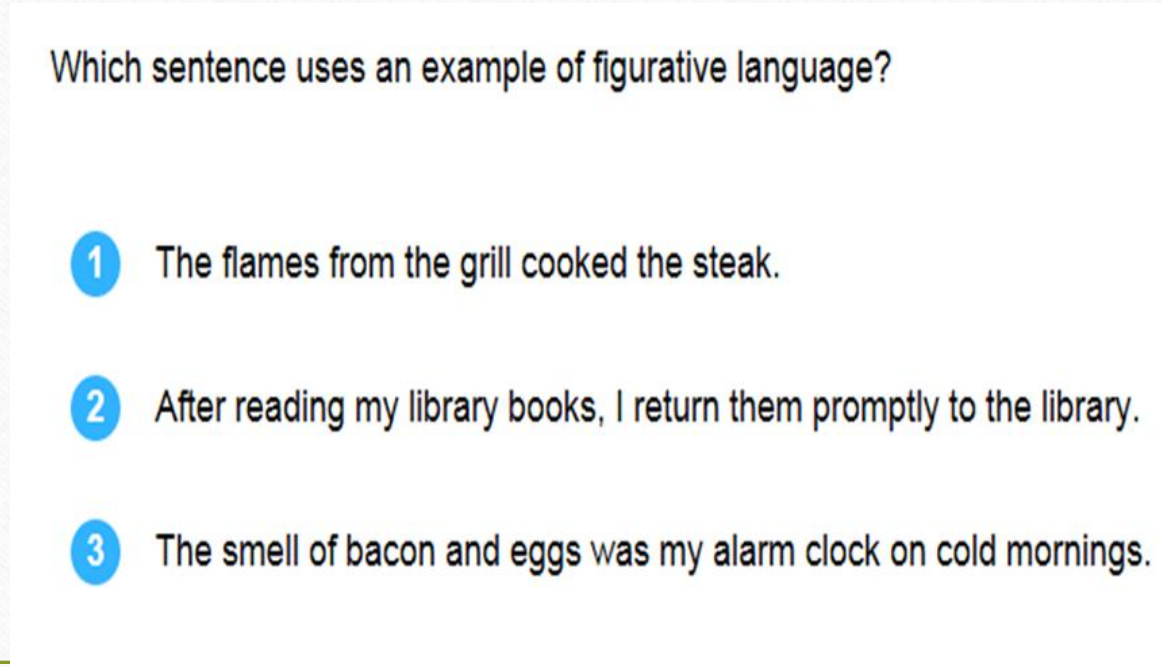
How does the school determine my child's reading level?

Teachers determine your child's reading level in one of three ways: a Star Reading test, a reading age estimation from a standardised test or by using their best professional judgment based on their knowledge of your child.



Star Reading is an online reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology and is completed half termly in school. Test questions continually adjust to a child's responses, if the response to a question is correct, the difficulty level of the next question is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level of the next question is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes. This assessment gives detailed information to the class teacher such as comprehension age and the book range that the child should choose from.





Questions get more difficult as the test progresses and answers are to be found in longer passages of text.

Visit Hollywood in style by living like the stars for a full week! Available for rent immediately, this luxurious holiday spot is set in the famous Hollywood Hills. It has a spectacular view and is just minutes away from Beverly Hills, Rodeo Drive and film studios galore. On the spacious grounds, lounge at the pool or soak in the hot tub, but keep your eyes open—your favourite celebrity might just stroll by!

How does the tone of the passage help persuade its intended audience?

1. The tone is formal, appealing to professionals who are going on business trips.
2. The tone is informative, appealing to readers who want to learn about Hollywood history.
3. The tone is enthusiastic about celebrities, appealing to those with an interest in them.

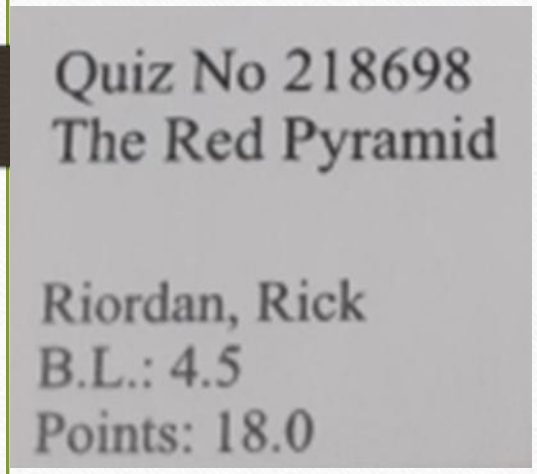
How does a Star Test determine which books my child should read?

In independent literature-based reading, a ZPD (zone of proximal development) is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a Star Reading test, or teachers can use their best professional judgment to determine a ZPD.

It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs – **HOWEVER** – it is most important that reading is enjoyable, if a child chooses to read a book at a slightly lower or higher level simply because they fancy it we won't stop them!

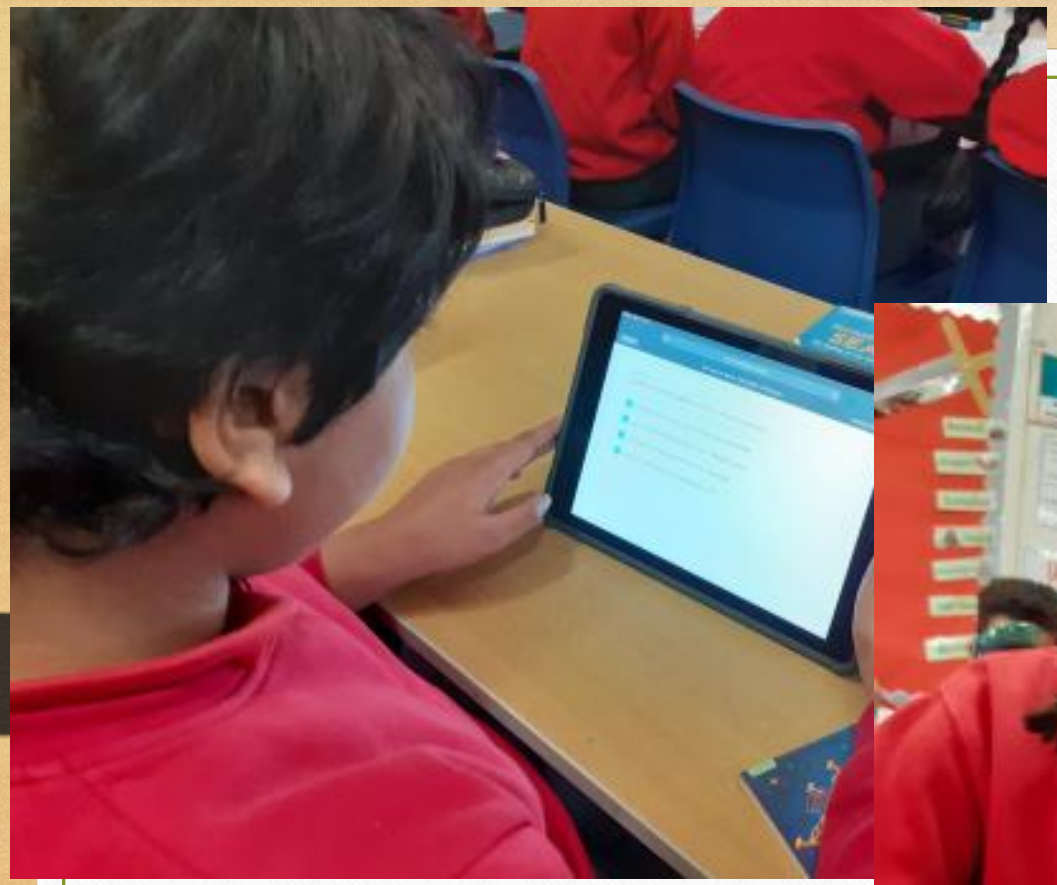
We will monitor children's reading material and help guide them to suitable books. A term in we are finding that most children are carefully selecting their books from their recommended ZPD and are finding they have a broad choice of reading material available to them.

After each test, the new Z.P.D. range is shared with your child. Each book is issued with a book level in a decimal format e.g. 2.5 to 4.4. Within class libraries, books are grouped according to these decimal numbers and are also colour–coded to help children identify them. The higher the number, the more difficult the book will be and this is likely to be reflected in the quiz score.



Books in school have a AR sticker inside which says what that text's Book Level (BL) is and how many points a quiz on that book can be worth. The children are very good at logging on and completing the book quizzes independently.

Despite there being thousands of books with associated AR quizzes there are some books which don't have a test – children know that these are also available to them and they often choose a mix of banded and non-banded books over the course of a term. Renaissance are very good at getting quizzes online for new publications and they will create quizzes if asked by schools.





Book quizzes are taken within 1 to 3 days of completing a book. Children earn points, or a portion of a book's points, depending on how well they do on the Reading Practice Quiz.

AR articles covering a wide range of topics are also available in higher year groups.

Aldryngton School PTA

Registered Charity No. 1026094

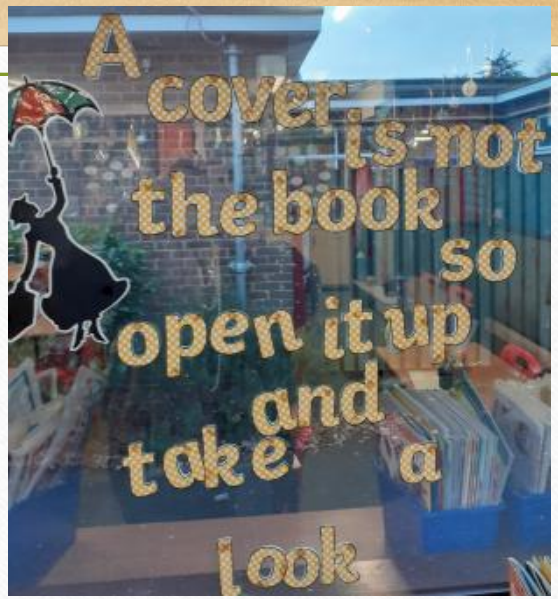


A huge thank you to our PTA who in recent years have helped us revamp our classroom libraries, enabling staff to purchase books which they know their class will enjoy and which fully suit the range of reading ability within the class. Teachers have been able to buy books recommended by the children as well as exciting new publications which mean we have greater diversity represented on our shelves.

Our class libraries now have a much wider range of text-types and genres with a broad spectrum of fiction, biographies, non-fiction texts and graphic novels – there truly is something for everyone on our shelves now!


Fly Away With Books


WORLD OF
YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK
My Name is not Refugee
Kate Milner
GENDER SWAPPED
FAIRY TALES


A cover is not the book so open it up and take a look




Reading Gives You Wings


Our Favourite Books
Charlotte's Web
You Are Awesome
Ted Hughes the Iron Man
Michael Rosen's A-Z
Roald Dahl

Accelerated Reader in KS1

Once children have completed the final RWI assessment, they will move onto Accelerated Reader.

Children will complete the KS1 STAR Reader in class as KS2 do then they will be given a number and choose a book
from that particular box.


My Reading Log

Date	Book name	Book number	Rating

During the course of this year, as children complete RWI they will be able to access AR book quizzes. When your child finishes a book they will need to complete the related online book quiz at home. Lower School staff will send information out regarding this once children get up to it – this will of course vary from child to child. There will be more information about this in the forthcoming RWI information session.

A Reading Log is sent home to complete to show the books that have been read.

How can you help your 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, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookshop on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading and discussing books that each of you have read.

When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child is comprehending what is read. Reading with your child, no matter what the child's age, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a lifelong love of reading and learning and creating a loving relationship between you and your child. Make learning a family activity!



Selecting reading books

How can I help my child find books that are interesting to him or her?

Visit www.arbookfind.co.uk and click Advanced Search. By conducting an advanced search, you can generate book lists that contain titles based on the criteria you enter such as book level, topic, interest level, fiction/nonfiction, etc.





We are very pleased to use Accelerated Reader at Aldryngton and see the benefits through improved reading scores and more highly motivated readers.

The part that you can play at home remains vital so please continue to support us and your child by regularly reading together at home.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or visit the Renaissance website at www.renlearn.co.uk.