Monday 29th April 2024

**Accelerated Reader – Years 2 – 6 home reading books**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are introducing a new home school reading system called *Accelerated Reader*. The children in Years 2-6 will be using this to support their book choices for their independent home-school reading and they have attended an introductory assembly about this. An additional information sheet has been included for your reference from the provider of Accelerated Reader but we will explain more about this here as well.

Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps the children to choose a book that is of an appropriate interest and ability for them to read. This is based on a calculation made using the children’s most recent reading assessment (a STAR reading assessment), providing each child with a range of books that will be of an appropriate reading challenge called their ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development). This correlates with a colour-coded system on the Accelerated Reader books in classrooms and soon in the school library as well, indicating the books that would be best for them to read.

Once the children finish reading their home-school reading book they take an online quiz. This checks their understanding of what they have read and provides information about their comprehension for their class teacher. The quizzes are around 10 questions long and should take about 5 minutes. These will be taken in school during the whole school reading time at the start of each day, between 8.45-9.15am, and they are not something that we want the children to worry about – if they have read the entire book and take the quiz soon after finishing this, they will be able to access the questions and there will always be an adult available if the children need support.

The daily reading time in school is in addition to the daily reading time that the children should have at home. This is to ensure that they have enough time to practise their reading skills and make progress with these. In Years 2-4 we would expect the children to read for at least 15 minutes daily at home and in Years 5 and 6 we would expect at least 20 minutes daily at home. To enable this system to work, children must bring their reading books to school every day – initially please prompt them to do this, putting their book back into their school bag after reading at home.

A few questions that the children asked have been answered below:

*Can I read a book that is not part of the colour-coded Accelerated Reader program?*

Yes, the children can read any age appropriate books that spark their interest! There will still be non-Accelerated Reader books in the class reader areas. The teachers will be monitoring what books children are taking home and ask the children to take some Accelerated Reader books over the term for them to complete the associated comprehension quizzes.

*Can I still read a book from home or one that I have borrowed from a library outside of school?*

Similar to the above answer, of course the answer is yes! The Accelerated Reader catalogue contains thousands of books which are regularly updated with new releases. The children will be able to see if their chosen book has a related quiz when they login at school. If you would like to check this yourself, please go to this website [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) and search for the book title.

*Do I still need to record the book title in my yellow reading record and get a signature from my parent/carer?*

Previously the children had a yellow reading record (all year groups) or a sentence book (in Years 5 and 6) that they were asked to complete alongside their home-school reading. They no longer need to complete these as this is replaced by the comprehension quiz.

*Does this replace the Chisenhale Core Book Challenge?*

In addition to home-school reading books, the children are encouraged to continue participating in the Chisenhale Core Book Challenge which runs alongside this. The Core Book Challenge books are “must reads” for each year group and they can be enjoyed either independently or read with family members.

As this is a new system, we are all learning how to use this most successfully and we will refine the process over time providing further updates as necessary. If you have any further questions, please email your child’s class teacher at teachers@chisenhale.towerhamlets.sch.uk or speak to them at the end of the day.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Charlotte Fallows and Sarah Nyes

English Leads