

Abbey Farm Educate Together Primary School

September 2026

ACCELERATED READER- Renaissance Learning

What Is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. It is started when children reach a higher level of independent reading which usually happens towards the end of year 2 and through year 3. It can, of course, start earlier or later depending on an individual child's progress. Once your child moves onto this scheme then they will pick a book from the school library according to their reading ability and when finished, will complete a short online quiz on this book. The quiz will help to assess their comprehension and understanding of the book. This information then helps the teacher assess their reading progress and decide how to target them moving forwards. The reading books selected by the children are within a banded group, therefore, you can be confident that the books that they read are at an appropriate level for them.

How much will my child read during the day?

According to Renaissance Learning's research children who read at least 20 minutes per day see the greatest reading gains. In school we will set aside between 20 and 30 minutes of silent reading every day.

Should my child read their AR library book at home?

Yes. Encouraging them to read while at home will help them improve further.

How did the school decide on my child's reading level?

All children involved also complete an AR STAR Reading Assessment at the beginning of the programme and then termly throughout KS2. Star Reading is a computerised reading assessment tool. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If your child's response to a question is correct, harder questions will be asked. If your child misses a question, the next question will be easier. This adaptation to children's responses helps determine their appropriate reading level.

What is a ZPD?

ZPD stands for Zone of Proximal Development. A ZPD is simply the range of books that a pupil will read within. They are carefully selected to appropriately challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation with their reading. The ZPD is identified after the children sit the STAR Reading Assessment. This range will change according to a child's reading progress. All books are colour banded in the school library to allow ease of choice for the children.

My child's book has a coloured sticker on the spine and a white sticker on the inside cover. What do they mean?

The coloured sticker indicates the Book Range that the child is reading within. The inside sticker provides a variety of information about the book. The information most useful to parents is the ATOS Book Level and the points available to the reader when he/ she finishes the book.

What is an ATOS Book Level?

An ATOS book level represents the difficulty of the text. There are 6 levels in total and they range from 0.0-1.9 through to 6.0+.

My child has told me that they complete Accelerated Reader quizzes in class. Can they do them at home?

The quizzes are completed in school. Quizzing does not happen at home.

Can I supply Accelerated Reader books for my child?

If you wish you can purchase AR Reading books for your child or find ones at the local library. We will continue to increase our school stock of AR books over the next few years, but we are aware there may a range of AR books at the local library that children may like to read. Quizzes on these books can be completed in school and the books brought back home. If you wish to check if a book you are going to buy/borrow is an AR Book with a quiz, you can visit [Accelerated Reader Bookfinder](#).