

South Bersted CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Accelerated Reader – A Guide for Parents and Carers

At South Bersted Church of England Primary School, we are always 'aiming for excellence' and with this in mind I am excited that we are launching a new computerised programme, **Accelerated Reader**. The programme is specifically designed to improve children's reading and continue to raise their reading age, but most importantly to encourage and nurture a love of reading that will continue into adulthood.

What is Accelerated Reader Program?

The Accelerated Reader Program works by identifying a child's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) which is essentially a selection of books that will not only match their ability, but will also challenge them and develop their vocabulary.

How will we determine your child's ZPD and what will happen next?

Each child in Years 3 – 6 has sat a short online comprehension assessment in order to determine their ZPD. Using the outcomes of these assessments, the children have been directed to choose books from the school library that fall within the range appropriate to their reading ability. When they have finished the book, they will take a short, electronic quiz that assesses their understanding of what they have read. This enables your child's class teacher to support your child's reading development by having meaningful discussions about what they have learnt and how they can support them to make progress as a reader.

It also enables us to closely monitor individual reading progress and ensure that children are selecting books that are challenging enough to meet their individual needs and to move their reading progress forward but also ensure a high level of engagement.

How can I give my child an advantage with their reading development?

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 bookstore on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading, and discussing books that each of you has read.

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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.

Our reading book marks provide an overview of the age expected skills your child should be developing as well as questions that you can ask your child as they are reading. Along with a selection of recommended reads, a copy of the book marks can be found here:

<http://www.southbersted.w-sussex.sch.uk/home-learning/reading-bookmarks/>

How will my child select a book?

Over the summer, the school library has been re-organised based on the ZPD codes. Using Accelerated Reader, your child will choose the books they want to read. Adults will make certain the book is at the right level so that after completing the book, your child should do well on the AR Reading Quiz. Success on the quiz will encourage your child to read more.

When will my child take the quiz?

Each classroom across Key Stage 2 will have a class computer or Learn Pad set up for your child to take their quiz. Pupils can quiz as part of their morning work or independent reading time after lunch time. If your child is isolating then they will have access to the website via their Google Classroom Account.

At South Bersted, we want ALL pupils to appreciate how valuable and rewarding reading can be and develop confidence, enthusiasm and a life-long love of reading. This new programme will help us to develop life-long readers who develop in both confidence and ability.

We hope that your child is coming home enthused about reading and sharing a range of texts with you. If you have any questions about Accelerated Reader, please contact me via the school office.

Yours sincerely



Miss White
English Subject Leader

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