

# 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 we are continuing to use a computerised program, Accelerated Reader, to support our pupils in developing their reading comprehension skills. The program 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 the Accelerated Reader Programme?

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, and many children in Year 2, have 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.

It is worth noting that your child's ZPD will be constantly changing as they sit the assessment regularly throughout the year. Depending on their performance in the assessment in comparison to how they did previously, this may go up or down. Either way they will be directed to books that will help them make progress in their reading. In school we will be closely monitoring any children who have gone down with their ZPD and will put additional support in place if we feel this is necessary.



### How will my child know how well they are doing?

Following the Reading Assessments each pupil will be set a target linked to points. Each book is worth a given number of points depending on the level of challenge of the text. When pupils take a quiz on a book they have read they will be allocated points towards their target. The number of points awarded are based on the level of challenge of the text and the child's success on completing the quiz. To be awarded points a child must score 60% or more on a quiz and will be allocated points accordingly – i.e. if they achieve 60% on the quiz they will receive 60% of the points available for that text, if they score 100% they will score 100% of the points.

When they have completed a quiz, pupils will see their progress towards a target in the form of a sunflower at KS1 and LKS2 and a bar at UKS2. As they are awarded points their sunflower or bar will fill with colour.

### 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.

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?

The school library is organised based on the ZPD codes. Using Accelerated Reader, your child will choose the books they want to read. Adults will regularly make certain the books a child is choosing 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 where pupils are using Accelerated Reader will have a class computer or Chromebook 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. Quizzes can also be taken at home. The link can be found on the school website under the Home Learning tab or below:

<https://ukhosted118.renlearn.co.uk/2249145/>

We just ask that if children are quizzing at home they do so independently to give an accurate representation of their understanding of the text they have read.

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. The Accelerated Reader programme will help us to encourage 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



Michelle Robson  
Reading Subject Leader

