



Accelerated Reader™

Guidance for Parents

What is Star Reader test?

STAR Reading is a computerised reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 15 minutes.

We use the tests every term to check your child's progress and to see whether they need to move up.

Children who are in Key Stage 1 will take the test to determine whether children are ready to start on Accelerated Reader. The children are generally confident with their letter sounds and are confidently blending sounds to read words. If pupils are not ready for Accelerated Reader then the results are used to inform the teachers about what the children need to work on to progress in their phonics.

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers and schools manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace.

At Hopton we recommend that most children are likely to complete one quiz per week, however we do recognise that as pupils progress through the levels and read longer books that they may take longer.

When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer of 5 or 10 questions. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) AR gives children and teacher's feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child to progress in their reading.

Children using AR 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 your child choose books at an appropriate readability 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 the quiz, the teacher may help your child:

- Choose another book that is more appropriate.
- Ask more probing questions as your child reads and before your child takes a quiz to see what they may need support with.

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they're 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.

The children are expected to get 80% or more on the quizzes. If they do this twice then they can move up to the next level.

How can I help my child to be 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 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. Make learning a family affair!

As a parent you can also see how your child is getting on using Home Connect; please see the attached log on details.

Does my child have to read a book that they don't like?

Definitely not! Please let the teacher know and we can swap the book. We want children to be 'reading for pleasure' as well as making progress. The children are more likely to make progress if they are enjoying what they are doing.

What are the levels and how are the set?

The levels are determined by the length of the book, the amount of words that the book has and the difficulty of the book.

There are 3 different interest levels:

- Lower Years
- Middle Years
- Upper Years

This ensures that even if your child is reading at a higher or lower level that the book is still appropriate.

Is it OK for my child to read outside of their reading level?

Yes, we encourage pupils to read other books as well as their Accelerated Reader book. If pupils are reading another book at home, they can use AR Reader to search for their book and to find the level. It does not matter if the book is below or above their current level in school.

<http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

Pupils can then ask to complete a quiz in school.