



26th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Across the last few weeks, you may've had a conversation with your child(ren) about a programme that we have at Mark Rutherford School called Accelerated Reader. This letter is to remind you of what Accelerated Reader (AR) is and how we're implementing it as a school to ensure that every child's reading is being assessed and reviewed. This allows us to help students to select a book which is the right level for them.

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR is a computerised system that helps to support a child's independent reading practice. All students in Year 7 and Year 8 will take the Star Reading Test in September which will give the class teacher and librarian a standardised score. This will then allow students to select a reading book within the range of their score, ensuring that they're always reading for pleasure whilst being challenged. If they're reading at the recommended level for them, then most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the book that they've chosen, with reading for pleasure is a priority for us at Mark Rutherford School. Students are then able to quiz themselves on the book that they've read to test comprehension, with passing the quiz enabling them to move onto the next book.

The Star Reading Test

It is likely upon reading this that your child has already taken their Star Reading Test. This is used in collaboration with the New Group Reading Test, another online assessment tool that the school use to provide us with accurate reading ages. Star Reading uses computer-adaptive technology, with questions continually adjusting to the responses of the child. If they provide a correct response, the difficulty level is increased. If they can't answer a question or answer the question incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. This provides the school with an accurate level of reading and comprehension for each individual child. The test is multiple choice, takes approximately half an hour and is taken within the students' English lesson in the Space 4 Learning.

How can I support my child?

As with anything, reading and comprehending the English language improves with time, but most importantly, practice. Research suggests that children who read for at least twenty minutes a day and achieve a 90% comprehension rate on Accelerated Reader book quizzes see the greatest gains. Encouraging your child to read for pleasure at home, discussing the books they're reading (both for pleasure and in-class) and asking questions to prompt conversation are all beneficial.

MyON

All students in Years 7 and 8 have access to an online digital library called MyON. The system has nearly seven thousand full books, already knows the child's level so will recommend books based on this and can be accessed from anywhere so long as the child has their login. This means they're able to access it not just at school but anywhere they're able to access an internet connection. There's also a 'reading aloud' feature, something that can be extremely beneficial for children who enjoy being read to. You can access this here: [myON®](#)

Recommended Reading Lists

On our website under the Literacy tab you'll find a list of recommended reading for students in all year groups. All of the texts on these lists are found within our well-stocked Space 4 Learning. If any of these books are of interest, please ask your child to speak to our Librarian Mrs Unwin who is more than happy to either find or reserve a book for them.

If you have any questions about Accelerated Reader or anything reading-related, please feel free to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Johnson
Literacy Lead and Teacher of English