

A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader

Ballymacward Primary School

Your child will be participating in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. This guide will give you information about the program. If you have questions, please contact your child's teacher or visit the AR website at www.renlearn.com to find out more.

Here is a **link to our school's entry portal** for quizzing on Accelerated Reader: <https://ukhosted96.renlearn.co.uk/6728166/default.aspx>

Wondering if a quiz is available for a particular book? Here is a **link to Accelerated Reader Bookfinder**:

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx?RedirectURL=%2fdefault.aspx>

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR is part of the Renaissance Reading software package recently adopted by the school to encourage and improve reading, measure growth of the individual reader and to provide quality reading for all. It allows for personalised learning targets to be set up and for progress to be easily monitored. This short guide will help you to understand the system better so that you can support your child with their reading.

Your child will choose a book at their own level and read it at their own pace. When finished, they will take a short quiz on the computer. Passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood the book.

AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.

AR is used as part of a comprehensive reading programme in place at Ballymacward Primary School. While we continue to teach the skills of reading in class through guided reading texts and whole class texts, the AR books chosen by your child will provide them with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed.

Pupils using AR are encouraged to progress at their own pace and they have personalised targets based on their reading ability. The aim of AR is for all children to succeed in achieving their targets.

What are STAR Reading Tests?

Every child taking part in AR will complete a STAR reading test at the beginning of the year and at the end of each half-term. It is a twenty minute multiple choice reading assessment completed individually on the computer. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses so if their response is correct, the difficulty level

is increased. If they miss a question or give an incorrect answer, the difficulty level is reduced.

The STAR reading test, along with teacher judgement assists us in identifying a child's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) range.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

After your child takes a STAR reading test, the teacher will assess the results and give them a ZPD reading range. This range aims to challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation.

How do I know what books my child can read?

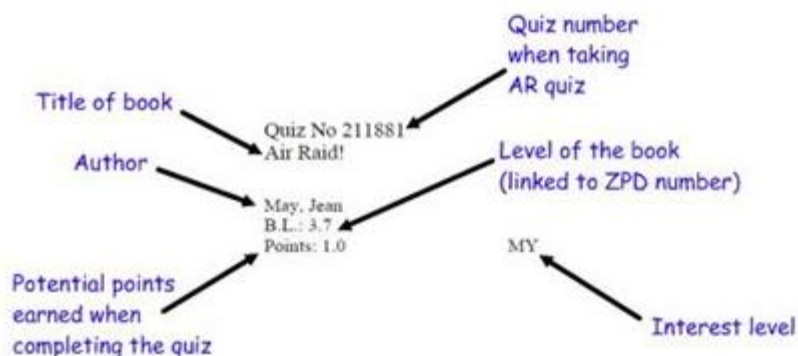
Your child will know their range and the books they should be choosing. A ZPD can change throughout the year based on STAR reading tests, professional judgement and quiz results.

To ensure children experience success from the outset they begin each year by taking books at the lower end of their ZPD range.

Children will have a reading log which contains your child's username, password, their ZPD range and their target for that half term.



Each book in school has a personalised label on the inside cover which shows important information. This is an example of a book label.



B.L. = book level. A child uses their ZPD range to decide which books are appropriate for them to read. A child with a ZPD range of 2.8 - 4.0 would be able to read 'Air Raid' (example label) and it will be slightly challenging for them as it is towards the top end of their ZPD range.

Points = points value based on the difficulty of the book and the number of words.

LY/MY/UY = Lower Years, Middle years, Upper Years interest level

Lower Years - books for children aged 5 - 8 years old

Middle Years - books for children aged 9 - 13 years old

Upper Years - books for children aged 14 and above.

Just because your child can read the words in a book does not mean the content is appropriate. The interest level of the material must be considered.

What are the AR Quizzes?

When your child has finished reading a book they will be given time to take a quiz independently on the computer. We aim for all quizzes to be taken within 48 hours of finishing a book.

There are two main types of quizzes your child will take:

- **Reading Practice Quizzes.** These are the most common type of assessment. The purpose is to determine whether your child has read a book, measure your child's literal comprehension of the book and provide immediate feedback. Each quiz consists of 3, 5, 10 or 20 multiple-choice questions depending on the book level and length.
- **Vocabulary Practice Quizzes.** These measure a child's command or vocabulary words encountered while reading. They are designed to reinforce vocabulary acquisition, assist with individualising vocabulary instruction and generate your child's interest in words through authentic, in-context literature experiences. Quizzes include 5, 10 or 15 words from a particular book as well as review words from previously read books.

Depending on the book level the quiz will take around 5-10 minutes to complete. The results are calculated and shown to the child instantly.

Children earn points, or a portion of the book's points, depending on how well they do on the Reading Practice quiz. For example, a child who takes a 5-question quiz on a book worth 1 point will earn 1 point for 5 correct answers (100%), 0.8 point for 4 correct answers (80%) etc. A child who reads a book worth 5 points and takes a 10-question quiz will earn the full 5 points for 10 correct answers (100%), 4.5 points

for 9 correct answers (90%) etc. For quizzes with 3, 5 or 10 questions, a child needs to pass a quiz with a score of 60% or higher to earn points. For quizzes with 20 questions, a child needs to pass with a score of 70% or higher to earn points.

If your child does not do well on a quiz, they will be encouraged to choose a book that is more appropriate. You can help by asking questions about the book as your child reads it at home.

The number of quizzes continues to grow as new books are added to AR. Your child can take a quiz when:

- they have read a book independently;
- a teacher has read a book to them, e.g. class novel;
- they have read a book with someone, e.g. parent, teaching assistant.

How are targets set?

The AR program generates personalised targets for each child. These targets are based on how many AR points a child should be able to earn depending on how much time they read and their reading level. The more books your child reads, and the better they do on the quizzes, the more points they will earn. Prizes will be given to children who meet and exceed their targets.

How much will my child read during the school day?

According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% success rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains.

At Ballymacward Primary School we aim to set aside at least 20 minutes for independent reading each day.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Progress can be monitored via the AR website

<https://ukhosted96.renlearn.co.uk/6728166/default.aspx> and your child's Seesaw.

It is important that you;

- review results on AR quizzes taken in school
- view the number of books read, words read and quizzes passed
- see a virtual bookshelf showing the books your child has read

How can I help?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. We provide lots of opportunities for reading in school but you can help by encouraging reading at home too. Encourage your child to read with you and/or discuss what they have read. A child may be able to decode and read the words but may not have understood it, so asking questions about the book is important. Reading with your child, no matter what the age, is an important part of developing good reading skills and a lifelong love of reading.