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**Care Imagine Believe Strive Achieve**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

At Melbourne Primary School we are passionate about ensuring that every child is a successful and enthusiastic reader. One of the ways we plan to do this is to use a reading programme called **Accelerated Reader (AR)**. Some of you will already know about AR if your child attends Woldgate as it is also in place there.

### What is Accelerated Reader?

AR helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practise. The process involves, your child picking a book at his/her own level and reading it at his/her own pace. When finished, they take a short quiz on the computer (in school or at home) – passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. Teachers/Parents may assist children by:

- Guiding them to books appropriate to their ability and interests
- Asking questions as your child reads to deepen their understanding of the text
- Ensuring children have time to read and more importantly, time to discuss their reading with others.

Since they are reading books at their own reading and interest levels, most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace.

As with anything, performance improves with practise and children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on the AR quizzes see the greatest gain. Please encourage your child to read at home, discuss books, ask questions about what they have read and enjoy their reading. Together, we can help every child to be a successful reader!

### How is the correct level of text determined?

In school, a reading assessment is used to determine your child's reading level. It is a computer based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses, making the difficulty easier or harder where appropriate. The test uses multiple choice questions and takes approximately 20-30 minutes. Teachers will support your child in taking a STAR Reading assessment every half term.

Following the test, each child is given a reading level (this may be referred to as ZPD or Zone of Proximal Development) - for example 2.5 to 2.9.



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This reading level, determined by their reading assessment, will guide them towards books with a 'Book Level' that will challenge them without causing frustration or loss of motivation.

The level of the book your child is reading is represented on the orange sticker on the spine and is directly correlate with their reading level. Book levels represent the difficulty of the text in terms of both decoding, vocabulary and understanding. The levels range from 0.2 up to 13.5.

It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within the given range. With support from school and home, we would expect to see this book level rise as your child's confidence and ability progresses.

Each book on the Accelerated Reader scheme has an interest level which indicates the age group that a book is appropriate for, based on the content and themes. These are recommendations only and teachers and parents are recommended to use their best judgement when guiding children in choosing their books. We have lots of books that the children can choose from in school, however we are also aware that many children like to read their own books from home. You can visit the website [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) to search all of the available books with AR quizzes to see if the book your child wants to read is on the scheme. If not, then it doesn't mean your child can not read the book but rather that there will be no quiz available and therefore it will not be recorded on your child's AR profile. One of the most useful features on this website is the ability to filter using the 'Book Level' so you can find books with the recommended difficulty for your child. Again, if there is a book that your child would like to read that is above their difficulty, this is your decision at home; however, all school reading books will be withing your child's book level with teacher discretion applied where appropriate.

Please remember, it is not only the ability to decode a text that will determine your child's book level, but also their knowledge of vocabulary and confidence with comprehension.

Please speak your child's class teacher if you require any information regarding Accelerated Reader.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sam Parkinson

*English Lead*



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