



Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader

Your child (P3-P7) is using the Accelerated Reader program in school. This guide is designed to answer your questions about Accelerated Reader. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or visit the Renaissance website at www.renlearn.co.uk

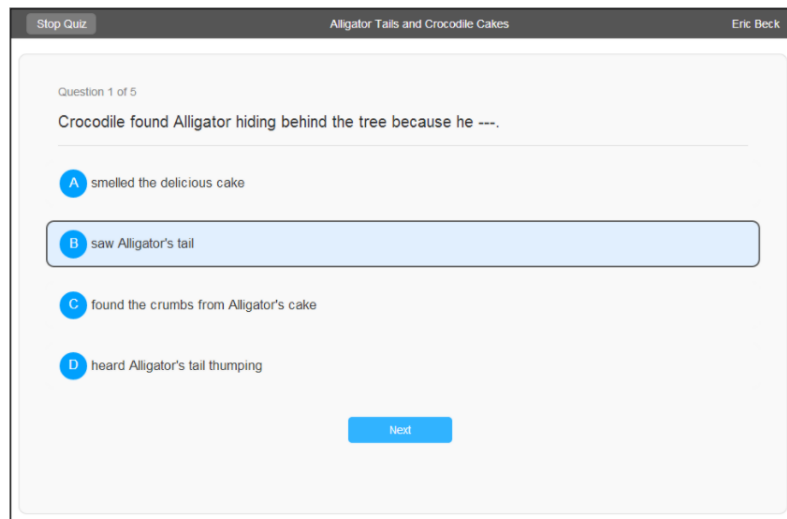
The School has discontinued the use of the Accelerated Reader online website MYON.

This year we are encouraging parents, wherever possible, to move away from using e-readers and tablets and other devices to encourage pupils to read paper books again.

Pupils will now take ALL AR quizzes in school.

What Is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's reading. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on a computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.)



Children using Accelerated Reader can choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them, though teachers and classroom assistants often help children pick suitable books. In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they are reading books at their reading and interest level, they are more likely to be successful. This is satisfying for most children.

In St. Patrick's Mullinahoe our reading statistics have grown every year since we have introduced the programme. Last year (Sept 21- June 22) our pupils read **15,917** books (split 79% fiction and 21% non-fiction) that is **29,931,556** words.



How much will my child read during the day?

According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate (average percentage correct) on Accelerated Reader quizzes see the greatest gains. Of course children who read more will see greater gains.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Start a home library, visiting your local library or bookshop, let your child see you reading and discussing books that each of you have 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.

What if my child does not like reading?

Using Accelerated Reader, your child will choose the books he/she wants to read both Fiction and Non Fiction. The teacher and classroom assistants will check the book is at the right level so that after completing the book, your child should do well on the Accelerated Reader Reading Practice Quiz. Success on the quiz will encourage your child to read more.

Will my child have to read a book I do not want him/her to read?

No. There are many choices of books at your child's level. He/she will never be forced to read a book you find questionable.

How does the school determine my child's reading level?

We determine your child's reading level through a [Star Reading Test](#), and by using teachers best professional judgment based on their knowledge of your child.

What is a Star Reading test?

Star Reading is an adaptive computerised reading test. Questions continually adjust to your child's answers. If the child's response to a question is correct, the difficulty level will increase. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level of the next question will reduce. Many pupils who are in early each morning have their AR quiz taken before class begins.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

ZPD is the range of books that will challenge without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a Star Reading test and should look to pick books from this range.



What are points?

Every book that has an Accelerated Reader Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. Accelerated Reader points are computed based on the difficulty of the book (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words). Children earn points depending on how well they do on the Quiz. The computer sets a target for each child and the school rewards each child who achieves their target. Our first targets are already set for Halloween. From time to time the computer may adjust targets based on pupil information.

How many Accelerated Reader quizzes are there?

There are over 30,000 Accelerated Reader quizzes available, with more being added every month.

How will I know if a book has an Accelerated Reader quiz?

The majority of our school books are pre labelled with a level, quiz code and number of points available. Parents are very good at donating popular books to the school and these books are labelled and added to our Libraries.

You can also visit Accelerated Reader Bookfinder at www.arbookfind.co.uk to search books with Accelerated Reader quizzes.

How can I help my child find books that are interesting to him or her?

Visit www.arbookfind.co.uk and click Advanced Search. By conducting an advanced search, you can generate book lists that contain titles based on the criteria you enter such as book level, topic, interest level, fiction/nonfiction, etc.

Is it OK for my child to read outside of his/her reading level?

Just because a child can read the words in a book does not mean the content is appropriate. The interest level of the material must be considered. Interest level is based on content, themes and ideas - and indicates for which age group a book is appropriate. The chart below shows which ages fall into each interest level. These are only recommendations we need to use our own judgment at times.

Interest Level	Year Level
LY - Lower Years	Ages 5-8
MY - Middle Years	Ages 9-13
MY+ - Middle Years Plus	Ages 12 and above
UY - Upper Years	Ages 14 and above



My child already does well in school. Why does he/she need this?

Even if a child is gifted at playing an instrument, the child has to practice to develop his or her talent. Bright children, like all children, need to be challenged.

My child is not a strong reader. Can he/she still use Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers, from students with additional needs to those who are gifted and talented. When children read books at an appropriate level, they experience success.

How will I know how my child is doing?

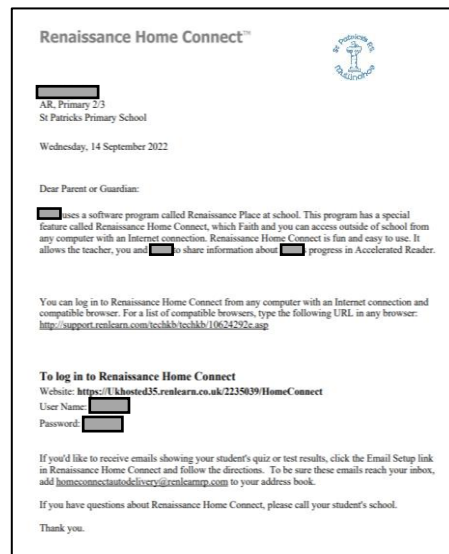
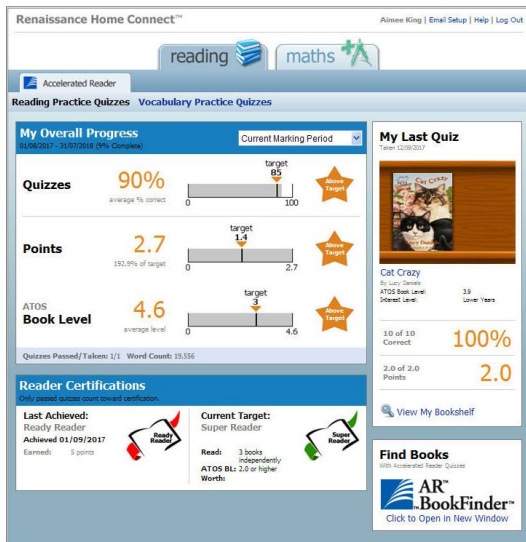
You can easily access your child's Accelerated Reader information through Home Connect from any smart device or tablet, it is easy to use.

The school are sending you out a letter with your own child/children's unique username and password.

You must request access to the information for each of your children. To log in to the Renaissance Home Connect Website click the link below or go to:

<https://Ukhosted35.renlearn.co.uk/2235039/HomeConnect>

Once in the program, you can view your child's progress and monitor their progress. If you'd like to receive emails alerts showing the results from your child's quiz or test results, click the Email Setup link in Home Connect and follow the directions. **Remember our first targets are set for Halloween.**



Sample Home Connect letter.

