



Date 9/1/23

## Accelerated Reader Star Test and Home Connect Information for Parents

Dear Parents/carers,

Today, children in KS2 will bring home two letters relating to the Accelerated Reader programme.

### 1. Star Test Autumn 2 Assessment 'Parent Report' Letter

The first letter provides information about the recent Star Test taken by children at the end of last term. This was the same test used in September, the outcomes of which we shared with you in a letter at the end of September.

A key part of the approach with AR (Accelerated Reader), is to do regular assessments of children's reading ability, in order to derive each child's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) which is the range of book levels that are right for them.

As well as the ZPD, the Star Test also produces other information about children's reading. We felt that parents/carers would find it useful and informative if we shared this information with you. AR produces its own letter for this purpose, which we have chosen to use this time and this is the letter that is coming home to you in paper form today.

The Star Test is a very well designed evaluative tool but like any test, it is not totally reliable in all cases and we have evaluated all the results, looking at what we know about each individual child, as well as other information, such as the % accuracy in the quizzes they do after each book they read. We are very pleased that 80% of children have made progress and their ZPD has increased to reflect this.

Where, for whatever reason, the test would indicate that a ZPD should reduce, we have made our own evaluation and handwritten the new ZPD on the sheet. The ZPD is a useful but wide ranging guide (deliberately building in flexibility for the individual) and where quiz accuracy is also low (below 85%) we will, in most cases, work with children to choose books towards the lower end of their ZPD, to build confidence / promote greater accuracy when quizzing.

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## 2. AR 'Home Connect' Letter

Renaissance Place (the company responsible for AR) provide a service called 'Home Connect' that allows you to look at information about the progress of your child in Accelerated Reader.

Once you have logged on, the Home Connect page will display:

- The average % correct they have achieved in quizzes up to the current time
- Their quiz accuracy target (generally 85%)
- The last quiz result they got
- How many AR points they have earned
- The average book level for the quizzes they have taken

(If you change the selector at the top from 'current marking period' to 'school year' you will see how many quizzes they have taken so far.)

We hope that this will be useful to help you keep track of your child's reading, giving you the chance to see if your child is quizzing regularly and with what degree of accuracy.

## 3. What do I need to do next?

- The 'Parent Report' Letter is a set AR template and comes with a place for parents to sign. We intend to use these letters to inform you about your child's Star Test results but we don't want to make the process too burdensome and so we **don't need** you to sign and return the sheet (this would also leave you without a copy!) However if you want to make a comment or ask a question you can use the form to do so if you wish.
- Ensure your child **brings their Reading Record ('Fish') book** to school **this week** so that we can write in the new ZPD.
- **Please** try and remind your child to **keep their Reading Record ('Fish') book in their bag at all times**, so it is available at home and at school.
- As we shared with you before, all research evidence points to the fact that if a child **reads every day** (for about 30 minutes) it helps them make good progress. We devote about 15-20 minutes a day to reading. Please spend as much time as you can (target is about 10-15 minutes a day) reading with your child, talking about the content to improve their comprehension.
- Coupled with the point above, use **Home Connect** to login and check on the frequency / accuracy of your child's quizzing!

Yours sincerely,



Adam J.G. Campbell  
Headteacher