



Whitehill Primary School

21 September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week your child will be choosing a new reading book. Whitehill Primary are using the Accelerated Reader (AR) programme for children in years 4-6. Accelerated Reader is a very effective system for motivating children and ensuring good reading progress at the child's own level. It is an independent reading programme that motivates children to read for pleasure.

AR helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz at school on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that the child has understood what has been read. AR gives both children and teachers feedback of the quiz results, which is then used to set achievable targets and inform on-going reading practice.

Books are levelled for AR using a nationally recognised readability formula which represents the difficulty of the text. The levelling criteria cover factors such as vocabulary, average word length, average sentence length, grammatical complexity etc, not how long the book is or how many pictures it contains. Books are chosen between a range of levels (ZPD) recommended for each pupil by STAR Reading Test.

The Zone of Proximal Development is the gap between what a learner has already mastered (the actual level of development) and what he or she can achieve when provided with books at the appropriate reading level. This allows children to read at a challenging level and achieve success.

You can help your child achieve success in their quizzes by listening to them read, asking questions about what is happening in their books and reviewing the story with them at the end. Quiz scores will be recorded in contact books so you can celebrate your child's achievements.

We will be sending further information about AR at a later date; however, in the meantime, we look forward to working with you and your child to enjoy positive reading experiences.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Higham
KS2 English Subject Leader

Mrs H Baillieu
AR Administrator

Headteacher: M D Moaby BEd(Hons)

