

## ACCELERATED READER GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Reading is one of the most important skills your child will ever learn. If your child reads well and loves to read, they will excel in school and be enabled to achieve and grow in all aspects of their learning. It is with this in mind that we are introducing Accelerated Reader into Key Stage 2 at Norbreck.

The most important goal regarding Accelerated Reading (AR) is to encourage a love for reading by developing confidence through practice. Research demonstrates that reading practice is the most important factor in a child's literacy development. Reading practice allows children to perfect the reading skills they learn so that they can move beyond the struggle of decoding text and begin reading for learning and pleasure.

Accelerated Reading is an individualised reading program for children. It allows teachers to set goals, track growth and monitor comprehension. The program also provides a huge bank of book quizzes that children can complete after reading a book from school. The book levels (ZPD) range from 0.2 to 13.5 and we have a wide and ever increasing variety of books for children to select. In Key Stage 2, Accelerated Reader is replacing the book banding system, linked to colours, as the books are organised differently. Your child completes a reading test which generates a ZPD score, with this they have been given their ZPD range. Your child can choose any book in their ZPD range (please note these will not correlate to any former book band at our school or your child's previous school and your child may bring home books from a wide variety of colour bands). When they have finished reading their book, they log on to Accelerated Reader at school, using their personal log in and take an online quiz.

Accelerated reader has many benefits. It assesses your child's comprehension and understanding of the book they have read. It also identifies the new vocabulary and skills your child has developed through reading. Then, through the fun online quizzes, your child can apply the skills that have learnt. Additionally, Accelerated Reader assesses your child's reading level and suggests books which are also age and interest appropriate. Not only does it recommend books that are at the correct reading ability for your child it also uses the child's own interests and reading preferences.

We encourage children to choose books within their reading level that are of interest to them. The love of reading will develop when children are not frustrated by the text in the books they select. Accelerated Reading is a wonderful tool for allowing this love of reading to happen.

Accelerated Reading has three main objectives:

- 1) to dramatically improve student reading performance, as measured by standardized tests,
- 2) to improve children's critical-thinking skills,
- 3) to instill in children a lifelong love of reading.

We have introduced many exciting events and rewards linked to reading and Accelerated Reader. These include the 100% board for 100% results in quizzes and the Millionaire's Club for children who read a million words.

In October we will be launching Home Connect to parents too. If you have any questions about Accelerated Reader, please ask.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs R. Hancock