



## **A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader Wellfield Middle School**

Your child will be participating in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. This guide is designed to answer any questions you may have about AR. If you have additional questions, please contact your child's teacher or visit the AR website at [www.renlearn.com](http://www.renlearn.com) to find out more.

### **What is Accelerated Reader?**

AR is a computer based programme that helps teachers manage and monitor pupils' individual reading practice. Your child will choose a book at their own level and read it at their own pace. When finished, they will take a short quiz on the computer. Passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood the book.

AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice. AR is used as part of a comprehensive reading programme in place at Wellfield Middle School. While we continue to teach the skills of reading in class through group novels and texts, the AR books chosen by your child will provide them with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed.

### **What are STAR Reading Tests?**

Every child taking part in AR will complete a STAR reading test at least three a year. It is a twenty minute multiple choice reading assessment completed individually on the computer. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses so if their response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If they miss a question or give an incorrect answer, the difficulty level is reduced.

The STAR reading test, along with teacher judgement assists us in identifying a child's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) range.

### **What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?**

After your child takes a STAR reading test the teacher will assess the results and give them a ZPD reading range. The range aims to challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation.

The school library has now colour coded the expanding stock of AR books (fiction and non-fiction) according to their ZPD number. To ensure children experience success from the outset they begin each year by taking books at the lower end of their ZPD range. Your child will know their range/colour and the books they should be choosing. A ZPD can change throughout the year based on STAR reading tests, professional judgement and quiz results.

### What are the AR Quizzes?

When your child has finished reading a book they will be given time to take a quiz or they can access this at home via their iPads or PC. At Wellfield Middle School we aim for all quizzes to be taken within 24 hours of finishing a book.

Depending on book level the quiz may be 5, 10 or 20 questions long and will take around 5 minutes to complete. The quiz assesses general comprehension of the book and results are calculated and shared with the child.

The number of quizzes continues to grow as new books are added to AR. Your child can take a quiz when:

- they have read a book independently
- a teacher has read a book to them, e.g. class novel
- they have read a book with someone, e.g. parent/classroom assistant/sibling/buddy

Your child can bring in books from home or the local library to read as part of AR if their teacher feels they are suitable. To conduct a simple book search to see if a book is on Accelerated Reader go to [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk)

### How much will my child read during the school day?

According to research, children who read every day and have a 90% success rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Therefore, at Wellfield Middle School we aim to set aside time some time for reading each school day.

### How can I help?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. We provide lots of opportunities for reading in school but you can help by providing a culture of reading at home.

Encourage your child to read with you and/or discuss what they have read. A child may be able to decode and read the words but may not have understood it so asking questions about the book is important. Reading with your child, **no matter what the age**, is an important part of developing good reading skills and a lifelong love of reading.