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**Headteacher:** Mr J Parr BA Hons

Wednesday, 22 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that your (and your child's) introduction to Church Stretton School has been a very smooth and positive experience.

I would like to just take this opportunity to welcome you and explain a little about the Reading Programme which we run in Year Seven and Year Eight.

It is called Accelerated Reader and the school uses it to foster a positive and supportive attitude towards reading as we are very aware of how crucial an ability to read fluently is for success at school and in later life.

Through the scheme, the school can:

- Assess a student's current reading ability and match their reading books to it.
- Encourage students to develop a consistent reading habit.
- Allow parents/carers to see their child's progress and be involved in encouraging them and helping them to choose reading material which they will enjoy and which will further accelerate their progress.

So what has happened so far in school:

### **STAR TESTING**

Your child has done a Star Reading Test. This provides the school with a Standardised Reading Score (to put it plainly – 100 = national average for that age group). *You child should have been told this score by their class teacher.*

Based on this score, a Reading Ability Range has been calculated. This is called a ZPD. All the books in the school library have been colour-coded to match the ZPDs, so a student should be choosing a book with the right colour on the spine. *Again, your child should have been told their ZPD by their class teacher.*

The Star Reading Test also generates a Points Target for the student based on the assumption that the student reads for 25 minutes a day. The school provides this reading time in school but hopefully the students will also want to continue their reading at home.

### **ACCELERATED READER QUIZZES**

As an incentive, after a student finishes a book, they have a chance to take a quiz on it. If they Pass the quiz, they are awarded points and these points go towards reaching their target for the ½ Term.

In previous years, the students have only been allowed to quiz in school but this year we will allow them to quiz at home also.

In order to quiz at home, they should follow the link supplied on their homework page on GO4Schools (<https://ukhosted72.renlearn.co.uk/2247330/>). It can also be found as an App on the School Website by searching for Accelerated Reader.

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## **REWARDS**

To encourage students to enjoy reading and to fully take part in the Reading Scheme, the school does offer rewards for participation in the Accelerated Reader Programme.

Each Tuesday Night, I will check to see which students have reached their targets and they will receive a certificate by the end of that week. This certificate will automatically enter them for the Prize Draw at the end of the ½ Term (Prize £10 Amazon Voucher) and their names will appear in The Link magazine on Friday of that week.

The target will then be reset – but the more times they reach it, the more times their name will be in the draw.

This ½ term there are some extra prizes. Over the summer, I managed to acquire a life size cardboard cut-out of Marcus Rashford and a copy of his new book, so I am offering this as an extra prize for anyone who reaches their target this ½ term.

Also I have managed to acquire some £5 Book Vouchers to be used in any Independent Book Stores.

One of the extra things Accelerated Reader does is count how many words have been read, so I will be offering these Book Vouchers to our first Word Millionaires.

## **PARENTAL ACCESS**

If you would like to look for yourself how your child is getting on, you can do this by visiting the HomeConnect Page of the web-site and using your child's school login and password:

<https://ukhosted72.renlearn.co.uk/2247330/HomeConnect/>

The books your child reads do not have to come from the school library. Accelerated Reader has an extensive database of books so many of the books you already have at home might be on it.

In order to find out, you can input the title into the AR BookFinder.

<https://ukhosted72.renlearn.co.uk/2247330/HomeConnect/>

Or Google AR Bookfinder.

I am sorry for such a long letter but hopefully it will help to clarify the Accelerated Reading Programme and answer some of your questions. If it doesn't, please feel free to e-mail me or you could ask your child, in theory they should understand the system or feel free to come to speak to me at the Tutor Review Meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> October.

Thank you for your time.

Michael Basnett (English Teacher)