

Every child will want to read every day, at home and at school.

The St Peter's vision for reading

Dear Year Two parents,

As you may know, we place great emphasis upon the importance of reading and we want every child in the school to fulfil their potential for this vital lifelong skill. Now your child has begun Year Two, we are very excited to be able to tell you about the Accelerated Reader scheme, that they are now able to access.

This scheme is recognised worldwide as being successful in motivating pupils, increasing their fluency and comprehension of books. At St Peter's, we use it as part of our approach to improving the reading skills of our pupils and it has proved itself to be very successful.

Reading ability appropriate books

After taking an initial test, the Accelerated Reading scheme assigns each pupil with a ZPD range (Zone of Proximal Development). This will help them choose books which are not only ability appropriate, but also which will challenge them and develop vocabulary. By consistently reading books towards the upper end of their ZPD range, the increasing ability of pupils is reflected in an increasing ZPD level.

Accessing the Accelerated Reading scheme

Pupils are able to access to the Accelerated Reading website through a personalised login and password. The attached letter provides families with these details. The website allows pupils to track their progress and plan their next steps in their reading. Below is the welcome screen that is displayed once children have logged on.

The screenshot shows the Accelerated Reader website interface. At the top left is the logo for Accelerated Reader. On the right side of the top bar are three icons: a magnifying glass labeled 'Reading', a star labeled 'Progress', and a bookshelf labeled 'Bookshelf'. Below the top bar is a search bar with the text 'Find a Book' and a placeholder 'Title, Author or Quiz Number', followed by a blue 'Search' button. Below the search bar is a section titled 'Top Book Ideas For You' which displays a row of book covers including 'The Gruffalo', 'The Magic of Roald Dahl', 'Puppy Love', 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', and 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. Three callout boxes are present: one pointing to the search bar with the text 'Search for a new book, or quiz to take on a book already read.', one pointing to the 'Progress' icon with the text 'Chart progress towards targets.', and one pointing to the 'Bookshelf' icon with the text 'Have a look at the bookshelf of books already read.'

Quizzing

Once children have read a book, they are able to take a 'quiz' upon it. These quizzes focus upon comprehension, or vocabulary understanding. If children answer enough questions correctly, they are able to take credit for reading the book, and it is added to their Accelerated Reading progress. If a quiz is not passed, there will be other opportunities to retake this, but not before the pupil discusses the outcome with their class teacher - perhaps the book was too challenging, read too quickly, or the vocabulary needs to be unpicked.

Children will be given opportunities to quiz themselves on a book during the school day. It is recommended that children try to take a quiz within forty eight hours after finishing a book, though this may not be possible after periods of time such as school holidays.

The website interface

The picture below shows the Progress screen, which shows the amount of 'points' children have earned towards their target score.

The screenshot shows the 'Accelerated Reader' interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Reading', 'Progress', and 'Bookshelf'. The main area is titled 'My Reading' and displays a 'Target: 89.2 points'. Below this, a calendar shows '31 July' and 'Today'. A large sunflower graphic is positioned in the center, with a small sun above it. The flower's pot is labeled 'Points 9.6'. A blue button at the bottom says 'Find My Next Book'. Callout boxes provide the following information:

- Current target points.
- As children earn more points by finishing more books, their flower will grow.
- The bookshelf shows all the books the children have read.
- Current points earned from reading books and passing a quiz.

Through taking and passing successive quizzes, children will improve their scores and begin to achieve their points target. This is set and adjusted by the class teacher. There will be regular retesting to ensure that the reading ZPD ranges are accurate and reflect the progress made by children.

Motivational

The Accelerated Reading scheme is very motivational for children, and our results in school indicate this. However, we have planned additional ways in which to celebrate the success of the children at St Peter's. One way that we are encouraging the children to read is through the book points and end-of-year prize draw. This is explained in the accompanying 'Guide to Reading Points' leaflet.

In addition to receiving a 'token' towards the end-of-year prize draw, children are awarded a certificate when they have completed their points target and this is regularly celebrated in assemblies.

You may already have another child from Years Three to Six that has talked about Accelerated Reader at home, and mentioned different features. We are viewing Year Two as very much an 'introduction' to the Accelerated Reading scheme and want to keep it as simple as possible. As the children progress through the school, we will introduce other features to motivate them and to focus their comprehension skills.

How you can help

We are aiming for our children to read for at least thirty minutes a day. It would be wonderful if families could be involved in encouraging their children to read every day at home. As well as hearing your child read, it would be very beneficial if you were to ask questions about what has happened, the vocabulary used or their opinions on the book.

Please also register and login to the HomeConnect Accelerated Reader site at home—detail of which are on the accompanying letter. From this, you can see the points that your child is working towards and books that they have finished and quizzed upon.

Alongside explicit teaching of reading everyday and time spent reading at home, we are hoping that the Accelerated Reader scheme will help motivate your child to engage and challenge themselves in reading, and lead to increased progress. If you have any questions regarding the scheme, or our approach to reading, please do not hesitate to ask your child's classteacher, or Mr English the Reading coordinator. Thank you for your help and support.