



4 September 2020

Accelerated Reader

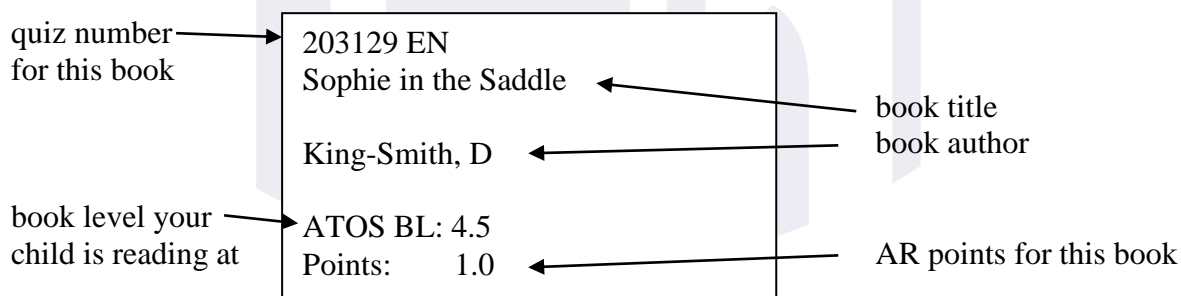
Dear Parents,

The pupils in Primary 4 and 5 will begin an exciting new reading initiative this month called Accelerated Reader (AR), while Primary 6 – 7 will resume their AR programme. The programme's aim is to increase the number of books children are reading independently and to improve their understanding of what they are reading by carefully matching each child to a book at their level of interest.

At the start of the programme the pupils will take an on-line assessment to select a level at which they will enter the AR programme. This is called a STAR test and this test will be taken several times during the year, to ensure that each child continues to read at a level that is correct for them and at a level which they can experience reading success.

After they have taken the test, the children will select a book with their teacher which will be challenging but not frustrating. They will read the AR book at their own pace. After they have read the book they will take an on-line test based on the text and obtain a percentage score indicating their knowledge and understanding of the text (children should aim for a minimum score of 90%). They will also be awarded with AR points (books will have varying levels of points according to the length of each text). Children will read several books at this level, with a free choice of which books to read. This will make reading more independent and enjoyable as the children will feel that they are in control of their own reading and can choose books that interest them. When the children have regularly passed quizzes at this level they will, after a discussion with their teacher, move to the next AR level.

Inside the cover of each text you will find information about the book:



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The programme is aimed at increasing reading enjoyment, *reading mileage* (the number of books and words read) and improving reading comprehension by ensuring that your child is reading a book that is right for them. The AR programme is also about independence, with the children taking responsibility for their own reading and for keeping a record of what they have read (including balancing fiction and non-fiction books), recording their own results and setting personal targets.

The AR programme will form one part of your child's reading in P4-7. Each day the children will have a set time for AR reading in school and you should ensure that your child is reading their AR book at home too. The children will also continue with their guided reading (group reading) programme with their teacher, including reading homework. You will know which book is an AR text because it will have a special commissioned bookmark.

Your interest in your child's reading is very important and you can show this by:

- knowing which level your child is reading at and how well they are performing in their tests following each book;
- ensuring that there is time each day, at home, for your child to read their AR book;
- reminding your child to take their books to and from school each day (there will be quiet reading sessions during the school day and books will have to be returned before a new book can be borrowed);
- later in the programme the children will show you how you, or other family members, can buy books for your child that are appropriate to their age and level of reading ability.

Parental support and interest is a key element in ensuring that your child benefits from taking part in this programme. If at any time, you are not happy with the storyline of any of the books, please make the school aware of your concern.

I hope you and your children enjoy the books. We will keep you informed of work in this area in our newsletters and on the school's website.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs McKeown
Literacy Co-ordinator

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AR during the Restarting School Programme:

- AR books can be borrowed from school. We have listened to feedback from parents during the school closure period and we know that although some children have adapted to ebooks, other children need a hard copy of a book.
- Books can be borrowed from school.
- The book should will be read in school and at home. It should therefore be placed in the homework folder, so that it can be used at home and in school.
- When a book is returned to school it will be retained for a period before it can be borrowed again.
- AR will be an important part of our blended learning programme, should there be a need for individuals to self-isolated or for schools to close.
- AR tests can be taken at home and we will show the children how to do this.
- AR tests can also be taken on many of the books that you have at home and ebooks. Again, we will show the children how to find the AR codes for books they have at home and ebooks.

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