



February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The children in school have now completed the 'Star Reader' reading assessment and I would like to thank you all for also supporting your children to take the 'Star Reader' assessment at home, through their remote learning. This now enables us to launch the Accelerated Reader programme with the children.

What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a system that will allow us to track the children's independent reading and check that they are understanding what they have read. Accelerated Reader suggests books they might want to read, based on their ZPD (see below) and other information, such as their age.

When children have finished reading a book, they will log on to Accelerated Reader and complete a quiz based on that book. This will show if they have understood what they have read. Over time, this builds up a library of books, showing each child's independent reading and how well they are understanding them. Not all books will have a quiz, but we have been assured that most will.

Accelerated Reader does not have books for the children to read, it just records books they have read and the outcomes of their quizzes. Children will read books from school, from home, their library etc. If children are not able to find a book they like or don't have access to them, they can select an electronic book to read from myON.

What is myON?

MyON is an electronic library, catering for children of all ages. It has additional facilities that we will explore later in the year, but for now, it is a resource that allows all children access to books at home. It is not aimed at replacing real books, but extending the reading range available to all pupils, if and when required. There is a huge selection of books, including many graphic novels, covering a vast array of interests so we are sure everyone will find suitable books to read, if they don't have them already.

When children login to myON, they will need to connect it to their Star Reader. This is done by selecting a button the first time they use it. Teachers will show the children how to do this during their remote teaching sessions. This may take a little while for information to be shared between the systems but, once done, it will then automatically update. When they first log into the site, it will also ask them what their interests are so it can select book recommendations for them.

The username and password for your child to access myON is the same as the one previously provided to you for the Star Reading Assessment.

MyON will recommend books for them to read, but the children can browse and select from the library of over 5000 books. There are many tools including a dictionary and audio facility. You can find out if the book is suitable for their age, by selecting the info button. This button gives other details about the book, including its ATOS.

What is ATOS and ZPD?

An ATOS is a number which represents the difficulty of a text. It is a system that allows the 'readability' of books to be quantified. The higher the number, the more challenging the book. Children are given an optimal range to read between. This is what is called their 'zone of proximal development' (ZPD). Their ZPD identifies the 'difficulty, readability or ATOS' range of the books they are best suited to reading. If they are having difficulty understanding what they are reading, it could be because the books are too challenging for them at the moment; not within their ZPD range.

When the children have finished reading a book on myON, they will then also take the Accelerated Reader quiz for that book. Within their profile on myON, there is information about their ZPD and their activity log. There are a number of other functions too, which we will explore later, once we are more familiar with it.

Teachers will be modelling how to access both Accelerated Reader and myON during remote sessions, with a how to guide. They will instruct pupils to link it to their Star Reader Assessment and then fill in their interests. Children will do this at school or via their remote learning sessions.

There are further, parent information sheets and links below, from Renaissance, that you may wish to explore.

<https://www.renaissance.com/2016/09/09/parents-guide-renaissance-accelerated-reader-360/>

<http://www.renlearn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Parent-Guide-to-myON-1.pdf>.

There are also a number of videos on YouTube, although these do not explain about linking their assessments which they should do when they first log in.

MyON Pupils perspective: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQh-0bTjpew>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guufq_P8XCQ provides more information on books like using the info button and dictionary facility, but please note that the section on how to log in is no longer correct and you can now select the Accelerated Reader button from the book.

We hope the children are able to access these systems at home in order to develop their independent reading. We expect all children to read books at home in order to become proficient readers and develop a love of reading. Research has shown, it is a critical skill to master that will impact the rest of their lives. Please contact your class teacher if you have any questions or issues. We are all learning this together and will work together to find the answers and solutions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Ms N York
Deputy Headteacher