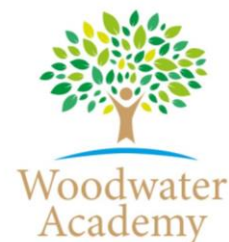


30 September 2021



Woodwater Academy  
Woodwater Lane, Exeter  
Devon EX2 5AW  
T: 01392 274147  
E: woodwater@ventrus.org.uk  
W: woodwater.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Accelerated Reader**

On entry into Key Stage 2, children at Woodwater become engaged in a reading programme called 'Accelerated Reader', often referred to as 'AR'. This replaces the 'phase/coloured band' reading system that you and your child will have been familiar with in Reception and Key Stage 1. Research has shown that effective independent reading practice needs to include engagement, ownership of learning and an appropriate level of challenge; Accelerated Reader supports this.

Over the past few weeks your child will have taken a 'Star Test'; which is a computer adaptive test, used to assess their reading ability. This provides them with a personalised reading range called their 'ZPD'. Your child will then be able to choose books from their ZPD range. Their ZPD range will be recorded in their reading records. The children will complete a 'Star Test' on 4 occasions during the school year. Class teachers will ensure children have daily opportunities to read and, as in Key Stage 1, the children will bring these books home to read. When children have finished their book, they will complete a quiz on ipads/computers at school. The quizzes measure their understanding of the book they have read. Teachers will monitor quiz results to ensure children are reading appropriately challenging books and monitoring their progress. We aim for children to average 80% or above in their quizzes. This indicates good comprehension and, will lead to greater progress in their reading ability. The books the children read in the early levels of 'AR' are short. Therefore, as in Key Stage 1, we encourage them to read the book three times before they quiz.

- First Read Focus: Word recognition and sounding out
- Second Read Focus: Fluency and comprehension
- Third Read Focus: Confidence and expression

As the books get longer in length and more complex, reading through them once is sufficient. If you would like further detailed information about 'Accelerated Reader' please click on the link: <http://www.renlearn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/What-Parents-need-to-know.pdf> or feel free to contact the school and speak to Katie Chown. For children who are not ready for regular reading comprehension practice, they will remain with their current practice of the 'phase and coloured book bands' until they reach a point where regular reading comprehension practice will benefit them.

Can I also take this opportunity to encourage you to take 10 minutes during your busy day to enjoy time sharing a book with your child; this can be one of the most pleasurable experiences of being a parent and greatly beneficial to children's development.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Katie Chown **Deputy Headteacher**