



# Ryecroft C.E. (C) Middle School

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15 December 2015

Dear Parent

We are delighted to announce that we will be launching the Accelerated Reader (AR) programme at Ryecroft Middle during the spring term for all of our pupils.

## **What is Accelerated Reader?**

Accelerated Reader is a software tool that assesses a student's reading level, suggests titles of books at that level, and then assesses whether a student has completed reading the book by asking a series of questions. The software then gives immediate feedback to students about their success. The Accelerated Reader programme has proved to be very successful in developing reading skills and raising standards in literacy.

## **What will your child do?**

Each student will begin by taking a diagnostic STAR reading test which will give them Reading Age and Book Level to guide them to text suited to their abilities. They will then choose, read, answer questions on and reflect on their book.

## **What are the benefits of this programme?**

The principle behind this programme is to promote a lifelong love of reading in every student, regardless of aptitude or ability. It is designed to do the following:

- ☺ gives students in-class guided independent reading practice needed to become successful readers
- ☺ inspires the love of reading in all students, including reluctant readers
- ☺ builds students' self-confidence and develop self-directed learners.
- ☺ make essential reading practice more effective for every student, motivating them to read, and enjoy their reading, through discussion and reflection on their reading
- ☺ personalise reading practice to each pupil's current level and assess pupils' reading skills through fun quizzes, allowing teachers to set specific, personalised targets to monitor and maintain progress
- ☺ encourage readers through immediate outcome response, clear success indicators and reward
- ☺ encourage engagement with texts and retention of learning
- ☺ improves students' critical-thinking skills
- ☺ supports and boosts students' performance in all academic areas.

## **What can you do to support your child?**

Once the programme is fully operational, parents will be able to log on to the Accelerated Reader Bookfinder Website: <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx> to view their child's quiz results, monitor their progress and find guidance on suitable books to read.

## **FAQ:**

### **My child prefers non-fiction to fiction. Does this matter?**

No, there will be many non-fiction books in the library which are part of the scheme and are being chosen to complement what your child is studying in other curricular areas. Encourage your child to take out books linked to a current topic being studied in another subject.

### My child is a reluctant reader. What can I do?

Take an interest in what your child is reading. Make sure you have lots of books and magazines around the house and show your child how to access eBooks. Think about swapping the games console for a Kindle or e-reader! Try to incorporate whole family 'reading time' into the daily routine.

### How do I know what level my child is?

Ask your child for his or her STAR reading report. This gives lots of vital information.

### How do we find a book of the correct level for my child?

Let your child check out the AR Bookfinder website. All they'll need to know is their book level or they can ask the librarian for help. Follow the link to find out more:

<http://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R004185509GH709B.pdf>

### My child says that they can't find a book they like. What do you suggest?

The school will be investing £5,000 to purchase new books to add to our already well stocked library. With a wide selection of non-fiction and fiction books to choose from, it is very unlikely that there will be nothing of interest to them.

### How long will my child be reading each day?

The structure of the school day will be slightly changed to a facilitate 25 minutes of reading on a daily basis within morning Form Tutor time. From 4<sup>th</sup> January the structure of the school will be as follows:

	From 04 January 2016:
Registration & Accelerated Reader Time	8.50 to 9.15am
Lesson 1	9.15 to 10.25am
Lesson 2	10.25 to 11.35am
Break	11.35 to 11.50am
Lesson 3	11.50 to 1.00pm
Lunch	1.00 to 2.00pm
Lesson 4	2.00 to 3.15pm
Registration / Worship	3.15 to 3.40pm


### How else can parents help?

As students will be having 25 minutes of reading time at the start of the school every day **it is vital that your child arrives to school on-time and brings their AR reading book with them every day.** We ask parents/guardians to ensure that their child has their reading book with them before leaving home.

Also, remember that reading is an on-going and an integral part of their English and Accelerated Reader programme. If in doubt, please contact your child's English teacher.

We hope that your child is excited by and finds a great deal of pleasure in participating in the Accelerated Reader programme at Ryecroft Middle School.

Yours sincerely



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