

Your child will receive a letter which will explain how you access this Renaissance Place Home Connect. We encourage you to check your child's progress and sign up the emails. You can also use AR BookFinder (www.arbookfind.co.uk) to search for book titles that are linked to AR. This can be a useful tool to check if any books you have at home/read from the library are linked to AR and conduct an advanced search to generate book lists that contain titles based on the criteria you enter, such as Book Level, Interest Level and Fiction/Non-Fiction.

We hope this guide has been helpful. If you have additional questions please feel free to contact us or visit the AR website www.renaissance.com/products/accelerated-reader.

Thank you for your continued support.

THE PHJS GUIDE TO ACCELERATED READER



**PARK HILL
JUNIOR
SCHOOL**

A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader™

During their time at Park Hill Junior School your children will be participating in the Accelerated Reader™ (AR™) program. This guide is designed to answer your questions about AR and explain how it will work at our school.

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. At Park Hill Junior School we encourage children to read for pleasure and the AR program is designed to develop this by allowing children to have free choice of the books they read from our school, whilst also incorporating books from their home and the local library. Once a book has been read children can complete online quizzes in school and challenge themselves to earn points, reach targets and improve their own reading ability in an enjoyable way.

Teachers and Learning Support Assistants will help your child choose books that are at an appropriate reading level. These will be challenging without being frustrating and will also be at a level at which your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

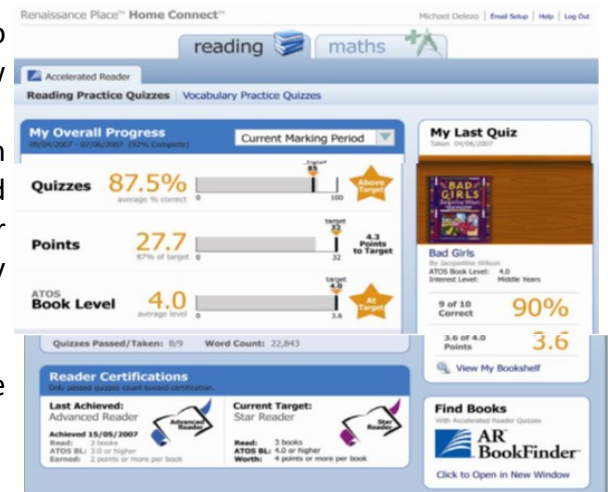
How can I support my children with their reading?

Children have many opportunities to read at Park Hill, during both daily Guided Reading sessions and class lessons however, as performance improves with practice, please encourage your child to read at home.

You can create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookshop on a regular basis and by letting your child see you reading.

When reading with your child stop and ask questions to be sure your child comprehends what they have read and in general make a habit of discussing books that each of you has read. Please see our attached bookmark with comprehension style questions and prompts. A colour, laminated version will be available from the school shop.

You are also able to see how your child is performing in the quizzes and increasing their reading skills by using the Renaissance Place Home Connect function.



How will my child know if they are improving?

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a points value. Children earn points on a pro rata basis depending on how well they do on the Reading Practice Quiz. For example, a pupil who takes a 5-question quiz on a book worth 1 point will earn 1 point for 5 correct answers (100%), 0.8 point for 4 correct answers (80%) and so on. A pupil who reads a book worth 5 points and takes a 10-question quiz will earn 5 points for 10 correct answers (100%) 4.5 points for 9 correct answers (90%), etc.

AR points are based on the difficulty of the book (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words). You may notice that some popular books have more points assigned to them than some classic pieces of literature. David Copperfield (Unabridged), for example is a 66-point book while Shakespeare's *MacBeth* is a 4-point book. Keep in mind that this does not mean the company think *David Copperfield (Unabridged)* is a better book or more worthwhile to read than *MacBeth*, only that—at 339,112 words vs. 19,048 words—it is much longer and provides more reading practice time.

Teachers will set attainable point targets for their children and those who achieve their targets will be celebrated throughout the school.

Children who achieve a certain number of 100 percents in their quizzes will be presented a golden ticket, the prize of which will be revealed to the children at the time.

How do you determine my child's Book Level?

Your children will currently have a book level range which is a numerical value. The lowest book level for AR is 0.1 with the highest being in the teens. Children will be able to read a selection of books which fall into their book level range. Examples of their ranges can be 3.4—4.4 or 3.9—6.7.

Once children complete a STAR reading test their book level range is generated, this will also be checked with the teacher assessment. STAR Reading is a computer based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child cannot answer a question or answers incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes. Book Levels are reported using the ATOS™ readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. For example, a book level of 4.5 means that the text could likely be read by a pupil whose reading skills are at the level of a typical year five pupil.

Once children receive their book level range they can select books within this range from the Year Group Libraries and books in the IHUB. It is recommended that children start at the lower end of their book level range and once they successfully pass their quizzes (85% and over) work their way up the level.

If children have a particular interest in a book or series of books they can select books below or above their level but this should not be a regular occurrence.

What is an AR quiz?

Accelerated Reader includes several types of quizzes designed to support the development of different reading skills. Often children fluently read books but by passing the quiz it is an indication that your child has understood what they have read and are increasing their reading skills.

Quiz types include:

Reading Practice Quizzes: Are the most common type of assessment in AR. The purpose of these quizzes is to determine whether your child has read a book and measures their comprehension of the book. Each Reading Practice Quiz consists of 5, 10 or 20 multiple-choice questions depending on book level and length and children receive immediate feedback.

Vocabulary Practice Quizzes: Measure a child's understanding vocabulary words in context while reading specific books. Quizzes include 5, 10 or 15 words from a particular book as well as review words from previously read books.

Literacy Skills Quizzes: Are designed to give your child's teacher information on specific reading skills. Questions are randomly generated from a 36-strong item bank resulting in 12 or 24 quiz questions. Due to item-bank technology, Literacy Skills Quizzes can be taken up to three times. Quiz questions are based on 24 specific higher order reading comprehension skills.

Children are encouraged to complete all the quizzes associated with the book they have just read and to remind themselves of the book before they take their quiz in order to help them score as high as they can. **Quizzes can only be taken during school time.**

Once quizzes are complete both children and teachers receive feedback based on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets and ongoing reading practice.

When children score highly on the quizzes from a range of books within their book level and complete STAR reading tests they may be given a new book level or a wider range of books to choose.

Please remember that books have been levelled based on their context and interest level. Sometimes, although children have read a text fluently, they may not have understood the main ideas of the story. The quizzes will help to establish a child's comprehension of the book a key factor in reading.