



WINSLOW CE COMBINED SCHOOL

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'Accelerated Reader' at Winslow CE Combined School

I would like to start by saying a big thank you to FOWs for agreeing to fund this project and to you for supporting the events which make this possible. Accelerated Reader is an IT package that enables us to test pupils' reading ability using an online test. Alongside this is a labelling system for library books, so that pupils can identify those at the right level for them.

After reading a book, pupils take a quiz to check that they have understood it. This enables them to earn points and track their progress. It will also encourage children to strive to improve their reading. We are emphasising that it is this improvement that we are interested in, rather than each child's ability compared to another. We also think that children will enjoy reading more if they can find books which challenge them a bit, but are not so difficult that they can't understand them. The link below gives some useful information and will enable you to take a sample quiz.

<http://www.renlearn.co.uk/accelerated-reader>

All children using AR will also be allowed to borrow another book which will be their 'free choice'.

We will continue to use the structured reading schemes for the younger children; they will move on to Accelerated Reader when they are ready, usually in Key Stage 2. AR will replace the Library Reading Lists and will give a much greater choice of books and be more closely tailored to each child's reading ability.

We have spent lots of time learning how the system works, labelling over 4000 books and completing the tests. Children are now starting to choose books according to their level and to take the quizzes. Reading scores are within a range; in order to start them off they have been told the lower end of their range. Some children have said that the books within their level are too easy, but this is just a starting point; levels will be adjusted as children become familiar with the system. The advantage of the quizzes is that they check that children have understood what they have read. Although we have put a huge amount of work into this, we are still at the early stages and will be adapting and refining it as we go along.

We should soon be able to give you access to our hosted Accelerated Reader website so that your children will be able to login at home, show you the books they have read, the points they have gained and which books they would like to look for next.

I hope you will agree that this is a fantastic new opportunity for our children. If you have any questions or comments about this or any aspect of the school library, please don't hesitate to contact me. Don't forget that the library is open after school on Fridays, or you can email me: jwhite3@bucksfl.org.uk

Jill White
School Librarian

