



Dear Parent / Carer,

In Year 3 we gradually move children from colour banded reading books onto a broader program called Accelerated Reader. It is a computer program that helps teachers monitor children's reading practice. Your child will pick a book at their own level and read it at their own pace. When finished, they take a short quiz on the computer. Passing that quiz indicates that your child has understood what they have read. Accelerated Reader then gives the teacher and child feedback that is then used to help set targets for ongoing reading practice.

Children using Accelerated Reader choose books of interest to them rather than one allocated to them which makes it more enjoyable. Their book range is called a ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) and it is a range within which your child should be able to find a book that will challenge without frustrating them. The ZPD is set by a Star Reading Test that focusses particularly on comprehension which the children must develop to a high level over time. Star Tests are done termly and the ZPD may change at those points depending on the level of comprehension demonstrated.

Every book that has an Accelerated Reader Quiz is given a point value based on the difficulty and length of the book. Children should be aiming to achieve 70-100% on the quizzes. To do their best on a quiz a child should read the book and show their understanding of the story to an adult first. This would include inference questions such as 'why do you think the character did that?' – there are question ideas in the reading diaries. The children's current ZPD is on a bookmark given to them and quiz scores are noted in their reading diaries.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Many Thanks – Year 3 Team.

What does your ZPD mean?

BELOW ZPD Comfort Zone 	LOWER ZPD Exploration Zone 	UPPER ZPD Deep Dive 	ABOVE ZPD Read Together 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an easier read, perfect for reading at home or on holiday • Maybe it's part of a series you enjoy or is by an author you really like • Ask your teacher first 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go wild and try something new! • Explore new genres, authors and book lengths • Challenge yourself if you can 	<p>Plan ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Choose a book you are excited about ✓ Pick a shorter book first ✓ Make notes as you read – remember the 5Ws! ✓ Ask your teacher for advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a challenging read • Who would enjoy reading this book with you? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A parent? - An older sibling? - A friend? • Ask your teacher first

Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)

The Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) defines the readability range within which pupils should read to best develop their reading, while avoiding frustration. The ZPD is especially useful for pupils using Renaissance Accelerated Reader, which lists readability levels for all quizzed books. However, success at any difficulty also depends on a student's interest in a book, and knowledge of its content.