

The Federation of Fairfield and Colneis

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Accelerated Reader and MyON

Dear parent/carer,

I am pleased to be able to share with you a significant development that we have put in place at Colneis to support independent reading and comprehension skills.

All children at Colneis now have access to **Accelerated Reader** and **MyON**. This has replaced Oxford Reading Buddy at Colneis (children at Fairfield will still access Oxford Reading Buddy).

Over the past half term, children have been supported to access the systems in school using our new Chromebooks and to conduct the initial STAR reading test to find their ideal independent reading level (their 'Zone of Proximal Development' or ZPD). This has now been completed so we are ready to launch both systems for home use. **Log in details have been provided to your children; please see their class teacher/s if you do not have these.**

Brief parents' guides for both Accelerated Reader and MyON are attached here and I would encourage you to take a few minutes to read both guides and familiarise yourself with the systems. More detailed parental information is also available for MyON here <https://help.renlearn.co.uk/myON/get-started> including using MyON on mobile devices.

In summary, Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, and ideally within 48 hours, your child takes a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read.

The books that children read may be physical books from school or that you may have at home, or they may alternatively read books in MyON which is a digital library containing thousands of exciting books that they can also link to their ZPD.

You can log in to Accelerated Reader and MyON from any computer with an Internet connection and compatible browser. For a list of compatible browsers, type the following URL in any browser:

<http://support.renlearn.com/techkb/techkb/10624292e.asp>

The Federation of Fairfield and Colneis is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.



Sue Cook - Director for
Children and Young
People's Services



The unique school website address for **Accelerated Reader** is: <https://Ukhosted88.renlearn.co.uk/2248333>

For **MyON** the unique address is: <https://www.myon.co.uk/school/MyONFairfieldandColneis>

(alternatively you can navigate to <https://www.myon.co.uk> and type in 'The Federation of Fairfield Infant and Colneis Junior)

From here, you will need to input your child's unique log in details to access their individual accounts.

I have also included some FAQ's on the following pages that I hope will be useful for you.

From speaking to the children I know they are really excited to be using this new system to support and monitor their independent reading and I am sure they will want to talk to you about it. Thank you as always for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mark Girling
Headteacher

Frequently Asked Questions.

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. The absolute key here is the understanding – your child may be able to physically read the words of almost any book out loud but the quizzes test the understanding/comprehension of the chosen text. AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets. AR will not take the place of Guided Reading. Specific skills for decoding and comprehension will be taught by your child's teacher, but AR will help to ensure that the children's independent reading practice is appropriate and effective. Children using AR have a free choice of the books they read physically or on MyON (within their given range), rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they feel in control and can choose books that are interesting to them. Teachers and teaching assistants will be on hand to 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. If your child does not do well on the quiz, the teacher may assist him/her by:

- Helping choose another book that is more appropriate
- Asking more probing questions as your child reads and before he/she takes a quiz

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they are reading books at their own reading and interest levels, they are likely to be successful. This is satisfying for most children. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace.

What is a STAR Reading test?

STAR Reading is a computer based reading assessment program that uses computer adaptive technology. The child is presented with questions, which require a multiple choice answer. 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 whole test takes approximately 10 minutes and is never an ordeal. A report gives an 'ATOS' reading level for each child which, alongside all the assessment information that we already have, helps the teachers to determine an appropriate reading range for your child. STAR tests are taken in school at a frequency of one or two per term.

What is a Book Level?

Books are levelled using a nationally recognised readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. The levelling criteria covers such factors as vocabulary, average word length, average sentence length, grammatical complexity etc. – not how long the book is or how many pictures it contains! Normally, books are chosen between a range of levels (the child's Zone of Proximal Development) recommended for each pupil by STAR Reading. The books are organised in school using colour coding according to level to make it easier for children to choose an appropriate book. In each year group and in the library, there are a

selection of AR books based on the full range of ZPD levels. Additionally, children can read books digitally in MyON which are automatically suggested based on their ZPD and interests.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

In independent literature-based reading, ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will be given a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test or teachers will use their best professional judgment to determine a ZPD. It is important for children to read independently with a high degree of comprehension and within his/her ZPD. During the year, as your child progresses in their reading, we would expect this range to change to reflect the improvements that they are making.

Is it OK for my child to read outside of their ZPD?

Just because a child can read the words in a book does not mean the content is appropriate. Many of us could 'read' a journal on Astrophysics, but few of us could claim to 'understand' or 'comprehend' it. This is an important consideration when choosing books with children. Some books have complicated vocabulary, but simple storylines; others might have far simpler vocabulary, but more complex storylines. When choosing a book, it is essential that the child is interested in the book, will enjoy reading it and feel success in having finished it and understood it. Within AR, the 'Interest Level' of a book is based on content—a book's themes and ideas—and indicates for which age group a book is appropriate. In many cases a book's interest level coordinates with its book level. Many books however, have a low book level but are appropriate for Upper Years and vice versa.

What are points?

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a points value. AR points are based on the difficulty of the book and the length of the book (number of words). The point value of our AR books is indicated on a label inside the book cover or will be shown in MyON. 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 points 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. A child needs to pass a quiz with a score of 60% or higher to earn any points.

How many AR Quizzes are there?

There are over 35,000 quizzes available and more become available each and every month. Not all books have an available quiz but the vast majority of popular authors/books are covered, together with traditional favourites and many more obscure titles! The school has an extensive book stock that is linked to AR, and in MyON there are over 6000 digitally enhanced texts to choose from so your child will also have something to read!