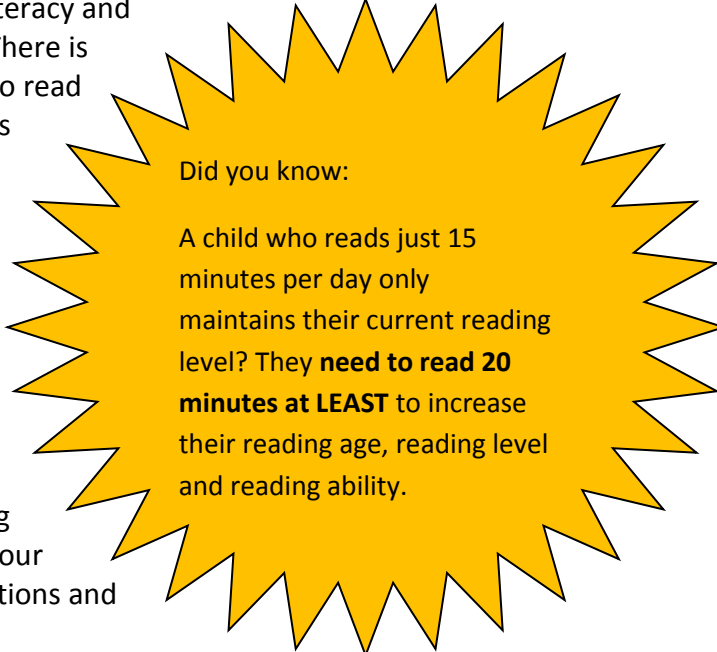


Encouraging Your KS3 Child's Reading for Pleasure:

Accelerated Reader and Star Reading

Our school is strongly committed to improving literacy and knows the importance of reading for pleasure. There is good evidence to suggest that young people, who read for pleasure daily, perform better in reading tests than those who never do. Furthermore, their increased literacy skills mean that they are able to access text books and exam papers more successfully helping them to achieve their maximum potential in all subjects. We want to encourage children to enjoy reading and to read a wide range of good quality literature. Therefore in Nunthorpe Academy, we use STAR Reading, which is a computerised reading assessment, giving your child an accurate reading age and ZPD, and Accelerated Reader to engage our children in reading through fun quizzes, competitions and prizes.



Did you know:

A child who reads just 15 minutes per day only maintains their current reading level? They **need to read 20 minutes at LEAST** to increase their reading age, reading level and reading ability.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What does ZPD mean?

A: Zone of Proximal Development – the range within which they will make the fastest progress.

Q: How do I know what my child's ZPD is?

A: It is recorded on page 60 of their planner.

Q: How long should my child read?

A: Minimum of 20 minutes per day. This should be an average so if they miss one day they can read 40 minutes (or more) the next day.

Q: How often will they get a new reading age and ZPD?

A: Children are tested at the beginning of each term throughout KS3.

Q: My child's reading age/ZPD has gone down. Why is this?

A: It could be that they did not take the test seriously, or that they have not been reading enough or that they have not been reading within their ZPD.

Q: Can my child do their STAR test at home?

A: No, the STAR test must be taken independently under test conditions at school.

Q: My child's books are too easy. Why can't they read higher?

A: The ZPD shows the level at which they will progress the fastest. They are not incapable of reading higher but they will not progress as quickly. If they feel that they did not try hard enough in their STAR test, they will need to be passing their quizzes at 100% before the teacher will negotiate a higher ZPD for them.

Q: What is a quiz and why does my child have to do it?

A: Each time your child finishes reading a book they need to log on to the Accelerated Reader™ website to take a quiz on it. If they pass the quiz this proves that they read the whole book and that they understood it. This helps us to build a more complete picture of their ability and give them accurate guidance to progress.

Q: Can my child quiz at home?

A: Yes, log onto our school website www.nunthorpe.co.uk > our academy > student access > accelerated reader. Their user name and password is on p60 of their planner.

Q: How do I know the level of the books we already have at home?

A: Search the book on www.arbookfind.co.uk Some books are listed under their title, some under the series name and some under the author's name so try all three before assuming they have not been assessed yet.

Q: My child hates reading. How can I help them?

A: Children with lower reading ages are still at the stage where reading is more of a chore than a pleasure. Unfortunately this means that they need to practice more. Try to make it a more pleasurable experience by settling them on a nice comfy chair, curled up with a pet if you have one, or a hot chocolate or a cookie. Make sure there are no distractions like the television on. It's a lovely opportunity for the whole family to sit down together and read. Be prepared to explain words and sentences that they don't understand. Some children like to share reading alternate pages with their parents/carers. Build reading stamina up gradually by only reading for 10 minutes - break - 10 minutes per day to start with then increasing little by little each week. Choose small books so they don't feel overwhelmed but make sure the content is of interest to them. After they have read, ask them questions about the book, such as "what has just happened?" or "what do you think will happen next?" Encourage them to take the quiz as soon as they have finished, before they forget what they read so they have a better chance of passing it.

Q: My child is a keen reader but they don't have enough books to read through the holidays/books are expensive.

A: Join your child into the local library. You will need to take them down with some ID initially but after that they can borrow children's books without you for free and children are not fined for late returns. They may also have access to the computers at the library so they can quiz there too. (Printing is sometimes charged.)

Q: My child has lost their school library book. Will they be in trouble/fined?

A: We never fine children for lost books, but we ask students to be respectful and look after the books. However we understand accidents happen. If a book is accidentally lost or destroyed, we request a voluntary donation to cover the cost of replacing the book.

Q: My child is dyslexic. Do they still have to take part in STAR testing and Accelerated Reader™?

A: Yes, all children need to make progress and reach the best of their ability. If requested, we can extend the answer time on the STAR test. We have books in the library which are especially for children with dyslexia. Some children with dyslexia find using a coloured overlay or a ruler helps them to read more easily.

Q: How can I monitor my child's reading progress?

A: Log in to Renaissance Home Connect website:

<https://UKhosted65.renlearn.co.uk/189391/HomeConnect> use your child's username and password that they use for quizzing. You can see all their progress and results there.

Q: Can I receive email alerts to see my child's quiz or test results?

A: Yes. To set up, you need to log on to Home Connect, click the email link and follow the directions. To make sure these emails reach your inbox, add homeconnectautodelivery@renlearnrp.com to your address book.

Thank you for taking an interest in your child's reading: having parents engaged with reading will help support our commitment to improving literacy standards.