

Helpful Hints for Parents:

Reading with your child is vital.

Research shows that it's the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education.

Children who spend at least 30 minutes a day reading for fun, whether it's books, newspapers or magazines, develop the skills to be better readers at school. Oakgrove recommends a minimum of 20 minutes a day.

It's best to read little and often, so try to put aside some time for it every day. Schedule a regular time for reading with your child and try to stick to it as much as possible.

Arrange for one evening a week when the whole family reads, instead of watching television!

Be your child's role model – actions speak louder than words; be seen reading!

Make sure everyone in the family joins the public library, and gets into the library habit. It's a free activity!! (As long as you don't keep books overdue!)

Think of ways to make reading fun - you want your child to learn how pleasurable books can be. Give books as gifts and encourage your child to build up a collection of favourite stories.

General Library Information

Librarian: Mrs. L. Sharpling

AR Co-Ordinator: Mrs. I. Coles

Assistant: Mrs. R. Lenton

Opening Times:

8.20am - 4.15pm Monday—Thursday

8.20am - 3.45pm Friday

Borrowing Books:

Students may borrow up to two books at any one time; the loan period is two weeks.

Books should be returned promptly and not kept overdue.

Students will be asked to replace lost or damaged books.

Library Lessons:

All students in Years 7 and 8 have a fortnightly Library lesson, when their English teacher and the Library staff will be helping them to achieve their AR targets.

All students must have a current reading book with them at all times.

Oakgrove School

Venturer Gate

Middleton

Milton Keynes

MK10 9JQ

01908 545300

library@oakgrove.school



Excellence

Innovation

Respect

Oakgrove School Library



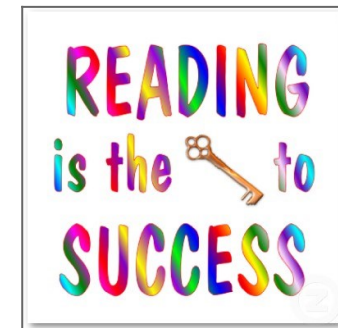
Information for Parents

Including:

How to use Accelerated Reader to get the best results

General ideas for encouraging reading

General information about the Library



Accelerated Reader

Why Accelerated Reader?

Reading is a high level skill that all students need to develop as they work towards GCSEs. In Years 7 and 8 we use the AR program to give them the practice they need. This reading program helps to motivate them to read, by guiding them to books that are just right for them at each stage of development and rewarding their progress. Students can then build on their reading skills and enjoy reading, giving all of them the opportunity to become confident, independent readers.

Does this take the place of other reading or support?

Accelerated Reader does not teach reading skills and is not designed to replace any other methods to improve reading in the school. It supports and enhances reading practice and is designed for motivation and enjoyment, which should lead to greater enthusiasm for reading.

How does it all work?

All KS3 students take a STAR Reading test to assess their reading level. Students choose a book from the Library within their reading range (ZPD). Once they have finished reading it, they log on to the website at Renaissance Place and take an Accelerated Reader quiz on the book.

Parents can check their child's progress by using the Renaissance Home Connect website. (see Useful Websites)

Accelerated Reader

Rewards and Achievement

Three targets are set by English staff and Librarian and these will be checked regularly on the TOPs reports that students print out after a successful quiz:

- 60% is a pass on the quizzes, but the **target of 85%** is set for all students and is to be encouraged at all times; this is the **Average % Correct** target that will gain the greatest improvements for the student
- **Average Book Level** indicates if the student is consistently reading at a good level within their range
- **Points Target**, for length of book, can be a great motivational tool in the House reward system, as well as Words Read.

Through the Library there is a reward system in place, and Tutors as well as English teachers and Library staff are involved in monitoring these rewards.

After discussing their results, students can then make an informed decision about the next book to choose in their ZPD.

Books borrowed from the Public Libraries and those brought in from home can also be checked to see if they have quizzes.

We are currently running a Year 7 House Challenge called Hooked on Books to give a wider profile to the importance of reading, and this is based on the individual Points Target for each student.

Useful Websites

Renaissance Learning:

<http://www.renlearn.co.uk>

A general website about the company and the ethos behind AR.

Accelerated Reader BookFinder:

<http://www.arbookfind.co.uk>

This site enables you to check if a book has an AR quiz; it means you can include books from home and the public libraries.

To log into Renaissance Home Connect:

Website:

<https://ukhosted19.renlearn.co.uk/2231589/HomeConnect>

Username: Student's initial followed by first four letters of the surname

(e.g. John Smith = jsmit)

Password: Username followed by the letters ar

(e.g. John Smith = jsmitar)

This site enables you to follow your child's progress with their reading and AR quizzes.

Oakgrove School contact: Mrs. I. Coles

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