

## **Reading at Sandon JMI School – September 2019**

Reading is an essential skill for children to have; without it, access to other curriculum areas becomes increasingly difficult. Therefore, at Sandon JMI, we place a great deal of emphasis onto reading, not only teaching children how to read but to encourage a love of books and texts also. We believe that it is important for us to guide and inform children's reading, as we would in any other area of learning, and are fortunate to we have the Accelerated Reader (AR) programme in school.

### **Accelerated Reader**

AR helps the children to find books that are an appropriate level for their reading ability and allows them to stretch and challenge themselves. The system levels books on an ascending decimal number system and a points score indicates the complexity of the book for that level. Each book on the system has a multiple choice quiz for the children to complete through the AR app- this allows them to work on their comprehension skills. Books are also labelled as 'lower years', 'middle years' and 'upper years' to indicate the maturity of the content level. In KS1, lower years books are available to children while in KS2 children begin to read the middle years books. We do not stock upper years books in school.

Each book has a label in the front cover giving the details of quiz, title, author, book level and points:

Quiz No 208028

Wolf Brother

Paver, Michelle

B.L.: 4.5

Points: 8.0

In Reception, children start reading captions before moving onto books that closely match their phonic abilities- these books are not on the AR scheme. Following completion of the phonic books, children read AR books on a single decimal point range (i.e. 1.8). When they have successfully read three books on which they have scored 100% on the quiz, they will be moved onto the next decimal point.

When a child has achieved 3.5, they will move onto a range of books starting at 3.5-4.0- they will read this range for half a term. Once they have read this range for half a term, a Star test will be carried out. This is a multiple choice quiz completed online which will generate a reading range (i.e. 3.6-5.8). The child then has the choice of the books within this range. At the beginning of each half term, a new Star Test is carried out to assess the reading level. If a child's reading level increases, they will move onto the higher level; if it decreases, the old level will be kept and monitored.

In order to help the children understand how best to challenge themselves as readers, they each have a personalised points target (only for children reading above 3.5, on a range). By taking into account the child's reading level and the amount of time spent reading each day, a points target for the year is generated. Points are gained through taking quizzes and relate to the number of points a book is worth and the percentage of correct answers in the quiz. For example, if a book is worth 8 points and the child scores 80% in the quiz, they would accrue 6.4 points. The children can see their progress over the year through the app. Books worth more points are more complex and will help the children reach their points target.

The frequency of quizzes taken will depend on the reader and the complexity and length of the book read. Teachers will closely monitor quiz taking in their classes and have any conversations with children and parents (where necessary) if the frequency of quizzes drops too low.

### **Reading at Home**

Reading forms the main part of a child's weekly homework; **all children should be reading daily**. In our homework guidelines we have suggested the following daily times for reading. These are the times we use when setting points targets.

Reception	10 minutes
Year 1	15 minutes
Year 2	20 minutes
Year 3	25 minutes
Year 4	30 minutes
Year 5	
Year 6	

It is crucial for children to be read with at home- hearing your child read and reading to your child isn't something that stops at KS2! By reading with your child you can model reading aloud and discuss the book together, supporting both their understanding and love of reading.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's reading, please speak to their teacher.