



Windsor Park CE Middle School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Encourage your child to read

At Windsor Park Middle School we are striving to improve our children's reading ability as well as develop their love of books. Since 2017, the school has subscribed to the Accelerated Reader scheme and we would appreciate your support to ensure that this wonderful resource can be enjoyed by all children.

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 their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer – passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what they read. AR gives children and teachers' feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set their goals and direct ongoing reading practice.

Your child will have regular access to the library in school, where they can take quizzes as frequently as they wish. We expect all children to be reading on a daily basis, and taking quizzes regularly for each book they have finished reading.

So how can you help?

- Encourage your child to read aloud, as this is essential to develop fluency, expression and understanding of more complex texts.
- Make use of the different reading material in your home, such as: magazines, newspapers, books and catalogues.
- Encourage your child to set time aside for reading at home (15 mins) at least 3 times a week.
- Keep reading time relaxed and comfortable, in a quiet corner, with the television switched off.
- Remember that talking about reading is very important, so if your child is reluctant to read aloud, discussing a book will also help to develop reading skills.



- Concentrate on enjoyment and grasping the meaning rather than absolute accuracy.
- Talk to your child about authors, characters and plots or what new information has been learnt.
- If your child reads silently, ask them to re-tell the part that has been read.
- Join your local library together and use it regularly. Watch out for storytelling events, summer reads and reviews of new titles.
- Please remind your child to take care of books they borrow from the library, returning them by their due date (this can be extended if they need more time to read it).

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Sharples
Head of English

