

Wednesday 13th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Reading at Ryecroft

We use Accelerated Reader (AR) across our school. This is a computer program that nurtures independent reading in pupils and supports teaching staff to monitor pupils' reading development.

Pupils will be issued with their own username and password to access AR and these details will enable them to access the program at home or at school throughout the academic year.

At the beginning of each term, pupils will undertake a short online assessment at school, which will identify their Zone of Proximal Development or ZPD (the readability range within which pupils receive appropriate challenge while avoiding frustration).

After each assessment, pupils can begin to use our school library to select a book which falls within their ZPD range (all library books are catalogued and colour banded to support them to complete this task). They should bring their chosen book to classes and form time as they will be given opportunities to read independently throughout the school day.

When pupils finish their ZPD book, they should take the relevant AR Reading Practice Quiz to assess their understanding of what they have read. Pupils should do this within 48 hours of completing the book. These quizzes are an important part of the program as they enable us to monitor pupil engagement and reward them for their commitment and efforts.

As we want to encourage our pupils to follow their own interests, we do not discourage them from reading books that fall outside their ZPD range. Therefore, we recommend that pupils have up to two reading books with them at school but we ask that at least one of these is at the appropriate ZPD.

All of our English teachers will be guiding pupils through each step in the process so please contact them for support and direction if required.

For information, the following website can determine the ZPD range of a book:

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx>

Please see the English Accelerated Reader section on our website for further information.

Finally, we would like to ask for your assistance in ensuring that your child reads regularly at home for 2 hours – 2 ½ hours per week (at least 4 x 30mins) as this will help them to achieve a faster than average rate of progress.

Yours sincerely



Ms F Simon
Head of English