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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to announce that we will be using a programme called Accelerated Reader (AR) to further promote our love of reading at Amblecote.

Accelerated Reader helps teachers to manage and monitor children's independent reading practise. 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 - by passing the quiz the children show their understanding of the text they have read. These quizzes will be completed during school time. The children gain points by reading the books and these achievements will be celebrated at school.

We have been busy at school setting this system up, which involves the children's books now all being levelled and colour coded. Your child will read books at their Zone of Proximal Development level (ZPD) - this level will be put in their diaries. This ZPD Level comes from a STAR Reading Assessment that we have done with the children. Star Assessments are computer based reading assessments. The questions continually adjust to your child's responses, making the difficulty easier or harder where appropriate. The children will complete these assessments regularly throughout the year.

Since they are reading books at their own reading and interest levels, children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all they learn at their own pace.

As with everything, performance improves with practise and children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on the AR quizzes see the greatest gain. Please encourage your child to read at home, discuss their books, ask questions about what they have read. Together, we can help every child succeed and further develop their love of reading.

We have lots of books that the children can choose from in school, however we are also aware that many children like to read their own books from home. You can visit the website www.arbookfind.co.uk to search all of the available books with AR quizzes to see if the book your child wants to read is on the scheme. If not, then it doesn't mean your child can not read the book but rather that there will be no quiz available and therefore it will not be recorded on your child's AR profile.

The programme also has a special feature called Renaissance Home Connect, which the children can access out of school from any computer with an Internet Connection. Renaissance Home Connect is fun and easy to use. It allows the teacher, you and your child to share information about their reading progress in Accelerated Reader.

The children will bring home a letter with their log in on and how to connect to Renaissance Home Connect.

If you have any questions, please contact either your class teacher or the readingchampions@amblecote.dudley.sch.uk and we will do our best to help you.

Thank you as always for your continued support and we hope that the children really enjoy using Accelerated Reader.