Bligh Primary
A School with Heart

Accelerated Reader

Reading is one of the most powerful skills a child can develop, opening doors to new worlds, ideas, and opportunities. Not only does it lay the foundation for academic success, but it also nurtures imagination, improves vocabulary, and builds critical thinking skills. Establishing a strong reading habit from an early age sets children up for lifelong learning and personal growth.

What is Accelerated Reader?

At Bligh, we use a programme called Accelerated Reader (AR), which is an engaging online tool used in many schools to foster a love of books and boost children's reading skills. It's designed to help each child find books that are just right for them, track their reading progress, and celebrate their achievements along the way.

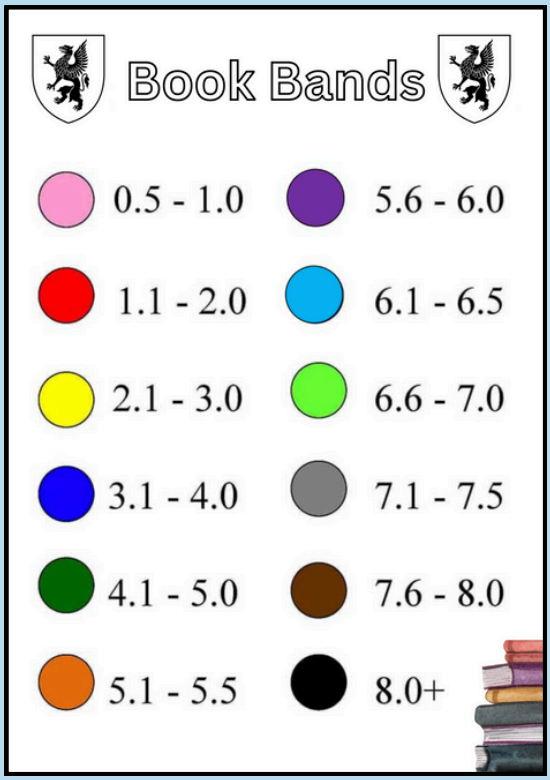


The STAR Test: Unlocking Your Child's Reading Level

At the heart of Accelerated Reader is the STAR test, a computer-based assessment that your child takes at school once a term. This quick and clever test gives each student a "reading age" and determines their ZPD – that's their Zone of Proximal Development. In simple terms, the ZPD is the sweet spot for reading: not too easy, not too hard, but perfectly matched to help your child grow as a reader.

Choosing the Right Books

Once your child knows their ZPD, the magic begins! Books in the school library are labelled with their ZPD level and a book band colour, making it easy for your child to pick books that are just right for them. Reading within this range helps build confidence, understanding, and enjoyment – crucial for developing lifelong readers.

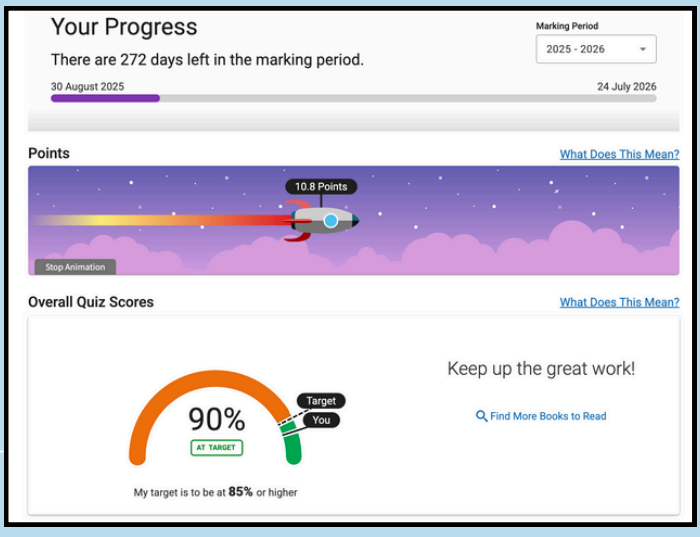




Quizzes: Test Your Knowledge & Earn Points

After finishing a book, your child can take a fun, multiple-choice quiz on it at school. These quizzes check how well they understood what they read, and award points based on the book's length and difficulty. Many children find it motivating to collect points and see their progress on their AR dashboard.





Becoming a Word Millionaire

One of the most exciting parts of Accelerated Reader is the chance to become a “Word Millionaire”! Every time your child reads a book and completes a quiz, the number of words they’ve read is added up. When they reach one million words, they join the prestigious Word Millionaires’ Club – a brilliant achievement that’s celebrated in our weekly celebration assemblies.





How You Can Support at Home

- Encourage your child to read regularly and chat about the stories they’re enjoying.
- Help them choose books within their ZPD for the best learning experience. Books you have at home may be on the AR system so use the AR book finder website (https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx) to find out if it’s in your child’s ZPD.
- Celebrate quiz results and milestones, no matter how small.
- Share in the excitement as they work towards becoming a Word Millionaire!

