



Cecil Road Primary & Nursery School

Cecil Road, Gravesend
Kent. DA11 7BT
Tel: (01474) 534544
office@cecilroad.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs C. Old

Cecil Road's new home reading scheme



Dear Parents,

To ensure our children are making great progress in reading, we have been gradually implementing the Accelerated Reader program into our school. It is a home reading system for years 2-6, which supports children in making accelerated reading progress.

What is Accelerated Reader?

AR is a program used to motivate students to increase their reading & vocabulary comprehension and guide them to independent reading. AR is a popular reading program used in thousands of schools. There is a proven link between strong reading skills and academic success - great readers make great learners!

How does AR work?

1. Each child completes a Start Assessment (an online reading test) which assesses the children's individual reading skills; the assessment happens 3 times across the year.
Based on the results, the children are assigned a ZPD range (zone of proximal development) meaning they will choose from books that are not too easy, but not too challenging either - the perfect range for making accelerated progress.
2. Students then choose an AR book based on their interest and reading level (some children may be able to read from more than one colour band).
3. When they have finished reading the book, they take the AR quiz on the AR website to assess comprehension, these are completed during the school day.
The quizzes have 5 questions and focus on assessing the child's understanding of the book. They need to get 60% or more to pass. If a child does not achieve this score then they may be asked to reread the book.
4. The children can earn points, both through the number of words they read and quizzes passed; the children will have individual targets set by their teachers.
Children who are reading regularly and are achieving an average 80% pass marks would be considered as working at the expected level for their age range.

How can I help my child?

1. Encourage your child to read daily. Try to vary the way your child reads, such as reading independently, reading to you or others at home and spending time reading to them.
2. Some children are great at reading the text, but sometimes find it difficult to remember and follow the story. Asking your child questions about what is happening in the text and ensuring they are understanding what they have read is vital in supporting children's comprehension skills.