

Uffculme Primary School



Reading in School Key Stage 2



Hopefully your child has now become a confident reader and will have been introduced to the Accelerated reader (AR) Programme for their independent reading.

The programme works by establishing a base line reading level for each pupil and then identifying appropriate books for each child in order to move their independent reading forward.

Through an online reading test (a STAR test), the children are directed to a book level for their reading age and interest level. Once they have completed the book they take an online quiz which assesses how well they comprehend the book.

Once the children have achieved 80% in 3-5 tests on that level, they can move up to the next level. If the children find the level difficult and attain less than 80% on three quizzes, they will consolidate their reading by working at a lower level that they can comprehend.

Each child will have their own log in code. Recommended reading is 30 minutes each day and this will also be built into daily morning reading sessions and the guided reading structure.

Laptops and tablets are made available so there is time available for each child in the class when they are ready to complete their on-line quiz

Children will be expected to read increasingly harder texts as well as longer books which can be hard sometimes as a parent and a teacher to establish if they have understood what they have read. The AR programme allows for these expectations, as it checks for an understanding of a book read, through inference and comprehension questions as well as for vocabulary knowledge.

There is a function that parents can 'AR book find' books at home to help supplement a child's individual and independent reading. If you use the website www.arbookfinder.co.uk you can check books are also at the appropriate level your child is already reading at.

When a child takes a STAR reading test at the beginning of each term, which is online and timed, it also enables the reading level to be checked. If during the test, the child is starting to struggle according to the questions that have been set, which are level appropriate, the programme uses computer-adaptive technology to automatically adjust the questions, in some cases lower the level of difficulty.

This can happen after holidays when perhaps the children do not read as rigorously so please do reassure your child that we do not want them to struggle with overly difficult books but perhaps they need to read at the most appropriate level until their confidence is restored, stamina increased and they understand more clearly what they are reading.

Guided reading

At school we do not hear the children read individually but within a group structure of guided reading.

This activity takes place daily for 30 minutes. This is consistent across the Key Stage for each class. Children may need further support and they will therefore have one-to-one support allocated to them in school or they may be stretched by reading with children in a different year group if this is in the case.

How do we check/assess children's reading?

We monitor how often the children read at home through comments that are made in their home school reading diaries.

STAR reading tests

This is a skills based assessment, around 20 minutes to complete and questions have time limits. Results help to provide tracking and monitoring data, standardised scores and reading ages as well as diagnostic reports on how a child is reading.



How often should the children read at home?

We expect the children to read a minimum of 3 times a week at home for at least 30 minutes. As the children move into Year 3 and upwards, we encourage a more independent approach to their reading.

Children need to be able to read for stamina and by providing a quiet space at home, which is often not possible with a busy school day, it will greatly increase their chances of making progress.

We ask that home school diaries are signed by parents in order that any comments are passed to class teachers but also to ensure that reading is taking place.

If you have any queries about the accelerated reading scheme or about your child's reading in general as they move into Key Stage 2, please do ask the class teacher or our English Coordinator, Mrs Hayman. Further diagnostic reports on a child's reading progress are available on request.