Accelerated Reader

Mr Murray - Head of MFL & Literacy Lead

CHESSINGTON SCHOOL



Everyone valued • Every day an opportunity • Every moment focused on success

Research evidence on reading for pleasure

Education standards research team

May 2012

There is a growing body of evidence which illustrates the importance of reading for pleasure for both educational purposes as well as personal development (cited in Clark and Rumbold, 2006).

• Evidence suggests that there is a positive relationship between reading frequency, reading enjoyment and attainment (Clark 2011; Clark and Douglas 2011).

There is a positive link between positive attitudes towards reading and scoring well on reading assessments (Twist et al, 2007). • Regularly reading stories or novels outside of school is associated with higher scores in reading assessments (PIRLS, 2006; PISA, 2009).

In 2025…

CHESSINGTON SCHOOL

Reading enjoyment:

In 2025, the percentage of children and young people who told us they enjoyed reading was its lowest in 20 years.

- Just 1 in 3 (32.7%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said that they enjoyed reading in their free time in 2025. This marks a 36% decrease in reading enjoyment levels since we started asking about this in 2005.
- The drop in reading enjoyment over the last year has been especially steep among primary-aged children and boys, particularly boys aged 11 to 16.

The National Literacy Trust

CHESSINGTON SCHOOL

Reading frequency:

- Fewer than 1 in 5 (18.7%) 8- to 18-year-olds told us that they read something daily in their free time in 2025, again, the lowest levels we've recorded, with daily reading levels decreasing by nearly 20 percentage points since 2005.

Now in 2026 …

CHESSINGTON SCHOOL

Key findings

Reading enjoyment rose in 2026 after four years of decline

- More than 1 in 3 (36.1%) children and young people said they enjoyed reading in their free time, up from 32.7% in 2025.
    - This is the first increase in reading enjoyment since 2021.
- Enjoyment increased for both boys and girls and across all age groups, with the largest rises in those aged 14 to 16 and 16 to 18.

National Literacy Trust

Change your story

Daily reading also increased slightly in 2026

- In 2026, 1 in 5 (20.3%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said they read daily in their free time, up from 18.7% in 2025.
    - This marks the first increase in daily reading since 2023, although levels remain below earlier years.
- Daily reading increased across all age groups, particularly among those aged 14 to 16 and 16 to 18.

The National Literacy Trust's second independent research report into the reading habits of students using Accelerated Reader has been published.

"Children and young people who use Accelerated Reader tend to enjoy reading more, do it more often and think more positively about reading than their peers who do not use Accelerated Reader. They are also more likely to see a link between reading and their successes."

Dr Christina Clark, National Literacy Trust

What is Renaissance Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a computer program that helps teachers to manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read.

What is a Renaissance Star Reading® test?

Star Reading is used to determine your child's reading level. It is a computer based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child cannot answer a question or answers incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

What is a Book Level?

Book Levels are reported using the ATOS* readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. The levels range from 0.5 - 13.5. Books are chosen based on the ZPD range recommended for each pupil by Star Reading.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD, or reading range, after taking a Star Reading test. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within his/her ZPD.

Quiz No 204168
Stormbreaker

Horowitz, Anthony
B.L.: 5.1
Points: 7.0

MY+

The examples below have a Book Level of 4.0 since both have short sentences and vocabulary that is simple. However, Noughts and Crosses is intended for older pupils - Upper Years - while The Enormous Crocodile is Lower Years.







Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
Rowling, J.K.
AR Quiz No. 201922 EN

When the Chamber of Secrets is opened again at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, second-year student Harry Potter finds himself in danger from a dark power that has once more been released on the school.

AR Quiz Availability:
Reading Practice, Literacy Skills, Vocabulary Practice

ATOS Book Level:	6.7
Interest Level:	Middle Years, Ages 9 to 13
AR Points:	14.0
Rating:	★★★½
Word Count:	84799
Fiction/Non-fiction	Fiction

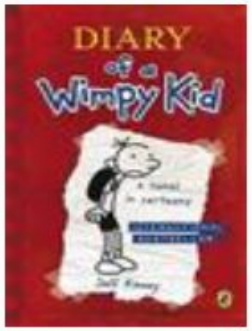


Awful Auntie
Walliams, David
AR Quiz No. 227355 EN

Stella Saxby is the sole heir to Saxby Hall. But awful Aunt Alberta and her giant owl will stop at nothing to get it from her. Luckily Stella has a secret - and slightly spooky - weapon up her sleeve...

AR Quiz Availability:
Reading Practice, Vocabulary Practice

ATOS Book Level:	5.0
Interest Level:	Middle Years, Ages 9 to 13
AR Points:	6.0
Rating:	★★★½
Word Count:	39847
Fiction/Non-fiction	Fiction



Diary of a Wimpy Kid
Kinney, Jeff
AR Quiz No. 213797 EN

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a school where he and his friend Rowley hope to survive as undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily. And when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take measures to save their friendship. #1

AR Quiz Availability:
Reading Practice, Vocabulary Practice

ATOS Book Level:	5.2
Interest Level:	Middle Years, Ages 9 to 13
AR Points:	3.0
Rating:	★★★½
Word Count:	19784
Fiction/Non-fiction	Fiction



Wonder
Palacio, R.J.
AR Quiz No. 221728 EN

After being home-schooled for years, Auggie Pullman is about to start fifth grade, but he's worried: How will he fit into middle-school life when he looks so different from everyone else?

AR Quiz Availability:
Reading Practice, Vocabulary Practice

ATOS Book Level:	4.8
Interest Level:	Middle Years, Ages 9 to 13
AR Points:	11.0
Rating:	★★★☆
Word Count:	73053
Fiction/Non-fiction	Fiction

What are points?

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a points value. AR points are based on the length of the book (number of words). Pupils earn a percentage of points according to how well they pass the quiz.

When should my child take a quiz?

When your child finishes a book they should take a quiz ideally within 24 hours of finishing the book. This can be done at home or in homework club at school - It can also be done within the Accelerated Reader timetabled lesson.

How can I help my child at home?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. According to Renaissance Learning's research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Encourage your child to read at home - perhaps ask them to read aloud to you - discuss books and ask questions about what they have read. At Chessington our expectation is that students are reading for at least an hour at home every week. Year 7 and 8 also have one timetabled lesson a week in which to read and one tutor time a week will be reading their book.

What are the expectations with regard to book borrowing?

Students may take out one book at a time. We are aware that students read at different speeds. For Year 7 and 8, given that we see them every week in an Accelerated Reader lesson, there is no time limit on how long they can have a book out for. However, the expectation is that students are reading the book and should finish it so will naturally need to return the book and borrow a new one. If it becomes evident that a student isn't reading their book, we will have a conversation with the student and perhaps a call to you to see how they are getting on with reading at home.

In the event that a book is lost or damaged we may ask you to pay for a replacement book.

When can my child return and borrow books?

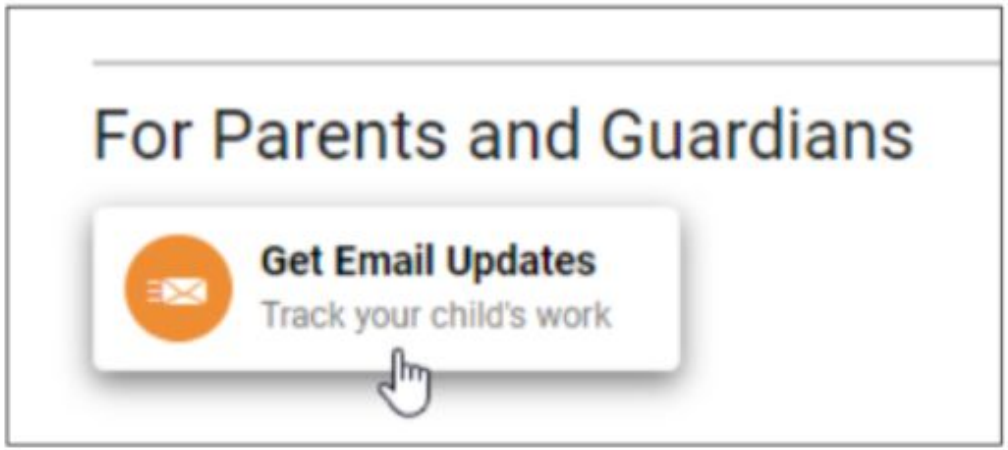
This can take place during the AR lesson, before school, during break, during lunch or after school. The library is always open!

We have lots of books at home. Does my child have to take a book out from the school library?

Not necessarily. Lots of books have had quizzes created for them by the Renaissance team. Go to www.arbookfind.co.uk to see if a book has been read and prepared by the Renaissance team, what ZPD it has and what its interest level is. We would like your child to have a reading book in their school bag every day, however.

How can I see how many quizzes my child has taken?

Ask your child to log into their Renaissance account. Scroll down and at the bottom of the page you will see this:



https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx?RedirectURL=%2fdefault.aspx

*The ATOS readability formula is applied to all the text that appears in a book and looks at three things: average sentence length, average word length, and word difficulty level. The higher book level a book has, the more difficult it will be to read. ATOS book levels are consistent, reliable and objective measures of text complexity, but they do not take the plot or themes of the book into account. The interest level will give you a recommendation of the appropriateness of the content.

To help you choose the books most appropriate for your children, Accelerated Reader Quizzes are divided into four interest levels:

- LY (Lower Years, Ages 5–8)
- MY (Middle Years, Ages 9–13)
- MY+ (Middle Years Plus, Ages 12 and above)
- UY (Upper Years, Ages 14 and above)

We also have a tutor time guided reading programme

The passing percentage for quizzes varies depending on the type of quiz.

- **For Reading Practice Quizzes, Other Reading Quizzes, and Article Quizzes,** the default passing scores are 60% to pass a 3-, 5-, or 10-question quiz and 70% to pass a 20-question quiz. (These requirements apply to Teacher-Made Quizzes as well.) You can use the Passing Percent preference to change the passing percent scores.