

Accelerated Reader at TGMS – A Guide for Parents

Our Approach to Reading

At Tylers Green Middle School, reading sits at the heart of everything we do. We want all pupils to become **confident, fluent and thoughtful readers**, but just as importantly, we want them to develop a genuine **love of reading**.

To support this, we have invested in a wide range of high-quality books across different genres and interests, and we use **Accelerated Reader (AR)** as one of the tools to help guide and monitor pupils' reading development.

What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a programme that helps pupils:

- Choose books that are appropriate for their reading level
- Develop understanding and comprehension
- Build independence and confidence as readers
- Track their own progress over time

It supports both school and home in working together to help children succeed as readers.

How does it work?

1. STAR Reading Assessment

Pupils complete a short online assessment which adapts to their responses. This provides teachers with:



- A reading level
- A recommended book range (ZPD – Zone of Proximal Development)
- Insight into comprehension strengths and next steps

2. Choosing a Book

Pupils then choose a book within their range. This is important — we want reading to feel:

- **Enjoyable**
- **Accessible**
- **Challenging in the right way**

Staff will guide pupils, but choice remains a key part of the process. [AR Book Finder](#).

Book Level	Points	Interest Level										
Book Levels represent the difficulty of the text. The Star Reading test tells your child what range of Book Levels to read within. This is called the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD).	Books are assigned Points based on their word count. Points are earned by passing quizzes. Students are set personalised targets each term by their teacher.	The Interest Level indicates for which age group a book is suitable for. It does this based on the content and themes.										
<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Interest Level</th><th>Age (in years)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>LY - Lower Years</td><td>5-8</td></tr><tr><td>MY - Middle Years</td><td>9-13</td></tr><tr><td>MY+ - Middle Years+</td><td>12+</td></tr><tr><td>UY - Upper Years</td><td>14+</td></tr></tbody></table>	Interest Level	Age (in years)	LY - Lower Years	5-8	MY - Middle Years	9-13	MY+ - Middle Years+	12+	UY - Upper Years	14+		
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3. Reading and Quizzing

Once a pupil finishes a book, they complete a short quiz to check understanding.

- A strong score shows secure comprehension
- Teachers use this to guide next steps
- Pupils begin to take ownership of their progress

Quizzes are completed in school, and we encourage pupils to take them soon after finishing a book.

Reading Expectations at TGMS

We know that **practice matters**.

- Pupils read regularly in school
- We encourage **daily reading at home** (around 15–20 minutes)
- The combination of school and home reading builds fluency and confidence

Just as importantly, we want reading to feel like a **positive, calm habit**, not a chore.

Supporting Your Child at Home

You can make a huge difference by:

- Listening to your child read
- Asking simple questions about what they've read
- Encouraging discussion about books
- Visiting libraries or choosing books together
- Letting your child see you reading

Even for confident readers, these conversations deepen understanding.

Progress and Targets

Each pupil is set **personalised reading goals**, based on:

- Their reading level
- Available reading time
- Their individual starting point

Pupils track their progress and celebrate success along the way.

Importantly:

Pupils are **not compared to each other** — progress is personal.

Celebrating Reading

At TGMS, we celebrate reading regularly. This may include:

- Class recognition
- Certificates
- Small rewards or events for meeting goals

These are designed to motivate and recognise effort — not to create pressure.

A Balanced Approach

Accelerated Reader is one part of our wider reading provision.

We continue to prioritise:

- High-quality teaching of reading
 - Class texts and discussion
 - Reading for pleasure
 - Exposure to rich vocabulary and ideas
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Frequently Asked Questions

What if my child struggles with reading?

That's exactly where AR helps most. By matching books carefully to ability, pupils experience success and build confidence step by step.

What if my child is already a strong reader?

AR ensures they are still challenged and continue to grow, rather than plateauing.

Can my child read books from home?

Yes — as long as they are within their reading range and the pupil has genuinely read and understood the book before taking a quiz.

Final Thought

Reading is one of the most powerful things we can give our children.

At TGMS, our aim is simple:

confident readers, thoughtful learners, and children who genuinely enjoy books.

Thank you, as always, for your support in helping us achieve this.