

How English is taught at Morley

Reading

In order to help children get off to the best start, we have invested in the Read, Write, Inc. phonics programme. This will start in September 2022. The parents' letter below can give you more information and useful links.

This is a very comprehensive programme. There is more information on this (and how best to support you child) on the Read, Write Inc tab on the website.

Your child will bring home phonetically decodable books to practice with you at home. These will include the letter sounds that your child has been practicing over the week in school.

Children will work in daily phonic groups, pitched to their own level. Children will be continuously assessed and may move group as appropriate for them.

Children from EYFS up to Year 4 can access these daily phonic sessions, but most children will complete these by the end of Year 2.

The Read, Write, Inc. Fresh Start Programme is aimed at any children in Years 5 and 6 who still need additional support with phonics. (If you would like more information, this can be found on the Read, Write, Inc. tab and by speaking to your child's teacher.)

As a parent, you may also want to join the Oxford Owl website. It is free to join and has a lot of useful information on Read, Write, Inc Phonics and reading in general.

Accelerated Reader and reading for pleasure

The Accelerated Reader is a reading programme designed to help children choose the books that will improve their reading ability faster. Children complete an online multiple-choice quiz each term in class and from their score, they are given a ZPD (zone of proximal development). A number and colour represent this ZPD. In order to make the most progress, children should select at least 60% of their reading material from books, graded within this zone and complete an online quiz once they have read a book.

We aim to colour code all our library and class books in line with accelerated reader but you can also check the ZPD of a book on the AR Book Finder.

Most popular children's books have been graded on the Accelerated Reader site. All Barrington-Stoke (Dyslexia Friendly Books) are on this system.

Myon

Myon is an online reading platform linked to Accelerated Reader. Children can select books to read (or to listen and read along to) online and then complete an AR quiz directly from the Myon site. Children can search for specific topics or book types including graphic novels and cartoon books.

Myon does not, however, have online versions of popular children's authors. Most children will be introduced to Accelerated Reader and Myon in Year 2.

Sharing books and stories together is invaluable.

Children will always learn to read and love reading by hearing stories read aloud to them. Choosing a book together or re-reading an old favourite are great ways to build reading ability, expression and skills of prediction and inference.

Accelerated Reader F.A.Q.s

My child is desperate to read a book but it is in a higher ZPD zone than she is? Can she still read it?

If children are keen to read a book which they may find challenging, do not tell them that they cannot read it, but instead read it with them or to them. Being motivated to read a particular text, even with some support, can really push on independent reading ability.

My child wants to read a book that is too easy for them according to their ZPD.

Children often like to revisit books and this helps to build confidence. The advice is that around 60% of books should be within a child's ZPD, leaving 40% for them to choose whatever books they like or enjoy books which are not on the scheme.

Can my child read comics?

Yes! A wide range of reading material is great – this includes comics, news-reports, flyers and leaflets as well as books. There is a wide range of graphic novels on the Myon site too. These can all be linked to quizzes.

Does my child have to do an online quiz?

It is recommended that children quiz regularly and soon after completing a book. Quizzing enables them to build comprehension skills. (They can refer back to the book if necessary) By doing a quiz online, your child's teacher can also see how they are performing or if they have a specific difficulty.

Can my child do a quiz after they have shared a book with me rather than reading it independently?

Yes. At the start of the quiz you can select whether the book has been read independently or shared.

We watched the film of the book, so can we do the quiz?

The quizzes on A.R. are especially designed to link directly to the book (not the film) so you will find it difficult to pass a quiz without reading the book, even if you have seen the film. Quizzes should be taken as close to finishing a book as possible.

How long should my child take to read a book and quiz?

This will depend on the length and size of the book. Children score points for quizzing and generally, the longer the book, the more points they will score. As a rough rule of thumb, children should aim to be completing a longer chapter book within 2 weeks. Children may also be reading books at school in guided groups and can quiz after completing these too.

Useful Links

The school's link to Accelerated Reader:

<https://ukhosted35.renlearn.co.uk/6711781/>

The link to the Accelerated Reader book finder: [AR Bookfinder UK](#).

The Link for Myon (online reading platform) <https://www.myon.co.uk/login/>

Core texts and how we teach writing.

You can see the core texts we use on our Reading Spines.

In Key Stage 2, our classes may vary in terms of the proportion of children in each year group in a class. For example, Sycamore Class can be entirely Year 3 children in one year, but only 50% of Year 3 children and 50% of Year 4 children in a future year. This is also true of Rowan and Willow.

We have therefore built in a rolling programme of 3 years to ensure that children do not miss any key teaching or repeat an area previously studied. Teachers have some flexibility to select those texts, which they feel are most suited to the needs of the children in their class.

We use a variety of approaches to teach writing around a basic formula of:

Read It (immersion in a book, exploring the characters and the plot and using drama and other techniques (such as story maps) to develop book talk;

Try it (a chance for the children to study the sentence structure and grammar within a text in detail, and finally

Write it (an opportunity for the children to write their own variations of a given genre.

Spelling

From the Autumn half term, we will be using the Read, Write Spell approach to the teaching of spelling. There will not be a regular 'spelling test' as such but ongoing assessment and monitoring. More information on this can be found in the information for parents on this web page below and on the Oxford Owl site.