

The Vale Academy
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6th March 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am pleased to inform you that your son/daughter is currently taking part in the Year 5 and 6 Accelerated Reader Program at The Vale Academy. This program has not only been specifically designed to improve pupils reading ability and continue to raise their reading age, but also to encourage and nurture a love of reading that will continue into adulthood.

Reading is a national priority for a number of reasons: being able to demonstrate competent reading skills is essential for subjects across the entire curriculum. Scientific research shows clearly that a pupil who reads regularly for 20 minutes per day is far more likely to be successful at GCSE level and beyond.

The Accelerated Reader Program works by identifying a pupils ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) which is essentially a selection of books that will not only match their ability, but will also challenge them and develop their vocabulary. Pupils will choose books from the school's wonderful library that fall within this range and, when they have finished the book, they will take a short, electronic quiz that assesses their understanding of what they have read. This enables us, as teachers, to have meaningful discussions about a pupil's reading: what they have learnt and how we can help them to develop.

As stated, at The Vale Academy, we also want pupils to appreciate how valuable and rewarding reading can be. To this end, we will reward pupils for their individual successes during this process. We have already given out a certificate to a child for becoming a 'word millionaire'.

As far as possible, the pupils will be conducting their twenty minute reading session within school. However, we would like to ask for your assistance in ensuring that your son/ daughter reads regularly at home for short periods of time as this will help them achieve. We would appreciate it if your child could read for around an hour a week at home.

If you want to find out about the books your child can read in accordance to the program, please use the website <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/> to search through the range of books available.

Thank you,

David Barker
Director of Learning

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