

Monday 28th September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Reading at Ryecroft

We use Accelerated Reader (AR) across school to encourage and develop independent reading. AR is a computer-based programme that supports pupils in becoming confident, motivated readers. It also helping teaching staff to monitor and support pupils' reading development.

At the beginning of each term, pupils complete a short online assessment in school. This identifies their Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD), which identifies the range of reading levels that will provide an appropriate level of challenge without becoming frustrating or discouraging.

Following the assessment, pupils can visit our school library to select a book within their ZPD range. All books within the AR collection are catalogued and colour-coded to make choosing an appropriate book straightforward. Pupils should bring their reading book with them to lessons and form time each day, as they will have regular opportunities to read independently.

We want pupils to develop a genuine love of reading and encourage them to explore books that reflect their individual interests. For this reason, pupils are not discouraged from reading books outside their ZPD range. Our library therefore also contains a selection of Free Reader books, which are not ZPD-banded.

Pupils may have up to two reading books with them at school. We ask that at least one of these is within their recommended ZPD range. If a book has not been selected through the school library, you can use the following website to check its ZPD range if required:

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk>

We recognise that regular reading at home is an important part of developing fluency, vocabulary and a lifelong enjoyment of reading. Where appropriate, pupils will therefore be encouraged to meet the following weekly reading expectations:

- **KS2:** At least 3 reads per week outside of school
- **KS3:** At least 4 reads per week outside of school

Pupils should record their reads in their Reading Diary, which will be checked weekly by our trained Reading Champions and monitored monthly by our English teachers. Wherever possible, we ask KS2 parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Diary to confirm that reading has taken place at home. Please do not write any personal or sensitive information in your child's Reading Diary.

When pupils have finished reading a book, we ask that they log into AR and complete the relevant quiz.

Further information about our Ryecroft Reading Rewards Scheme, ZPD colour bands and guides to help parents and pupils use AR can be found on the school website.

Please contact me with any questions or queries.

Yours sincerely



Ms F Simon
Head of English

