

Welcome to Thomas Clarkson Academy, where reading is an important journey needed for school and the wider world. Reading not only benefits children academically in their subjects but also helps them to become well-rounded citizens in society at large. We thank you for taking the time to read about Accelerated Reader and Bedrock Vocabulary, two important literacy initiatives that we have here at Thomas Clarkson. Not only is it important for your children to take part in these initiatives but it is equally important to have parents/carers take an interest in the books and the vocabulary that the children are learning.

### **Accelerated Reader**

The first important literacy initiative is Accelerated Reader. Children are assessed three times a year in a Star Test which provides teacher with an accurate reading age in years and months of where the child is currently reading at. Every week as part of the English Curriculum the children take part in a Literacy lesson where they have the opportunity to take a quiz on the books that they have finished reading. You will notice that when your child brings a book home from the school library it will have a coloured sticker on the spine of the book with a specific number. This represents the reading range level of the child based on their Star Test that they take. To further promote Accelerated Reader within the Academy, in English lessons, teachers ensure that children have the appropriate reading book for their age and reading ability level. Also, the first ten minutes of every English lesson children are dedicated to independent student reading in silence. Children are also encouraged to read once a week in form time for twenty minutes. To further support their development, children are expected to read for thirty minutes a day as homework and complete a reading book every two weeks. This will be followed by a quiz on the Accelerated Reader programme, following which they will sign out a new book, and begin the process again.

### **Benefits of Accelerated Reader**

- Increased confidence in reading and progress
- Accessible at school and home. If your child has completed a book while they are at home, they can log onto Accelerated Reader at home and take a quiz on their book.
- Quizzes produce results right away so that the teacher can monitor how your child is progressing and have meaningful conversations if they notice children are struggling with specific types of levels of books.
- Rewards program launched to encourage children to enjoy reading.

### **How Can You Support?**

- Ensure that your children are reading for thirty minutes a day at home.
- Have conversations with your children at home about their book, or have your child read to you to help develop confidence in reading.
- Ensure books are being read and completed every two weeks.
- Log onto Accelerated Reader at home and look at the quizzes and be proud of the work your son/daughter is doing.

## **Bedrock Vocabulary**

The second initiative we have at Thomas Clarkson is called Bedrock Vocabulary. This interactive tool allows children to read a variety of text online and complete various Literacy activities to demonstrate an understanding in the material that they are reading. Some of the activities include: matching words to definitions, fill in the blank with word banks, and selecting the appropriate words to complete various sentences. Once your child has completed a lesson, Bedrock automatically populates a percentage of what your child has achieved. The children need to get 60% or higher in order to proceed to the next lesson. If your child doesn't achieve this, they will be locked out for a specific time, after which they will be allowed to attempt the lesson again. The purpose of Bedrock is to introduce children to a wide variety of terminology that they can use across all subject areas and help students develop confidence in exploring the meaning of new and challenging words. In order for your child to get the most out of Bedrock, they complete one Bedrock lesson in their English curriculum time and then are assigned as part of their homework an additional Bedrock lesson to complete at home.

## **Benefits of Bedrock Vocabulary**

- Fully accessible program that your child can use at school, on their mobile phones, on their tablets and of course at home.
- Gives instant results to your child about how they performed and how much progress they are making.
- Keeps track of new vocabulary words that the children have learned and the vocabulary words that the child found difficult. This allows English teachers to have the children work with the difficult vocabulary words but also challenge your child to explore and use the new vocabulary words they learned through their writing.
- Rewards program launched to get children excited about more involved with using Bedrock

## **How Can You Help?**

- Parents can log onto Bedrock and see the progress your son/daughter is making.
- Have conversations at home with your son/daughter after they have completed a lesson about the difficult words and the new words that they encountered.
- Ensure that your son/daughter is completing one Bedrock lesson a week as per their homework in the English Department.
- For the words your son/daughter have a difficult time with look up the meaning of the words and help to explain it in a different way/context.
- Help your son/daughter keep track of their points that they earn to encourage about receiving rewards for their hard work.

## **Thank You**

Again, we would like to thank you for helping us here at Thomas Clarkson on our journey of becoming a reading school. As you just read there are two great programs that the school have invested in to help your son/daughter to increase their confidence in reading and their understanding of vocabulary. Thank you for supporting and taking an interest in Literacy. If you have any further questions please find the appropriate contact details below.

Mr. Bronizewski (KS3 Leader English + Bedrock) [vbronizewski@thomasclarksonacademy.org](mailto:vbronizewski@thomasclarksonacademy.org)  
Mr. Gooda (Head of Media + Accelerated Reader). [lgooda@thomasclarksonacademy.org](mailto:lgooda@thomasclarksonacademy.org)