

A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader™

Monday 16th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers of Key Stage 2 children,

At St. Paul's Catholic Primary School, we are passionate about ensuring that every child is a reader. One of the new and exciting ways we will do this from the start of January 2023 is to use a computer program called **Accelerated Reader (AR)**. Some of you may have already heard about AR starting to be introduced in the school for children in Key Stage 2 (some children may still be using our Monster Phonics Reading Scheme as part of their reading transition to this scheme). AR helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practise. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz at home on the computer – passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read.

Teachers will assist children by:

- Undertake Star Reading Assessments and monitor progress
- Guiding them to books appropriate to their ability and interests
- Asking probing questions as your child reads and before quizzing
- Pairing your child with others, reading with or reading to your child

Since they are reading books at their own reading and interest levels, most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace. As with anything, performance improves with practise and children who read at least **20 minutes a day** with a 90% comprehension rate on the AR quizzes see the greatest gain. At school, we dedicate time to independent reading but for **homework please encourage your child to also read daily at home, discuss books, ask questions about what they have read. When your child has finished reading a book, your child takes a short quiz at home on the computer – passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read and informs further assessment / levelling.**

The online quizzes link to their chosen book on **Accelerated Reader (AR)**. Please continue to **note daily in your child's reading record, letting us know they have read at home and once the quiz has been completed at home, then a new book can be chosen in school.** Children's **Accelerated Reader (AR) login details** will be provided by class teachers and teacher will closely monitor the progress made.

In school, **STAR Reading Assessment** will be used to determine your child's reading level. Again, it is a computer based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses, making the difficulty easier or harder where appropriate. The test uses multiple choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes. Teachers will support your child in taking a STAR Reading assessment every term.

Book levels represent the difficulty of the text. The levels range from 0.2 up to 13.5. Books are chosen based on recommendations from the STAR Reading assessment. Each child is given a range of books (for example 2.5 to 2.9) to challenge them without causing frustration or loss of motivation. We have colour coded all books in school to match **Accelerated Reader (AR)** as we feel it is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within the given range. Teachers may decide that a child needs to read books beyond the original range suggested by the STAR Reading assessment in order to give them a fresh challenge.

Each book on the **Accelerated Reader (AR)** scheme has an interest level which indicates the age group that a book is appropriate for, based on the content and themes. These are recommendations only and teachers are recommended to use their best judgement when guiding children in choosing their books. We have lots of **Accelerated Reader (AR)** books that the children can choose from in school in our school library and classrooms, however we are also aware that many children like to read their own books from home. You can visit the website <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/> to search all of the available books with AR quizzes to see if the book your child wants to read is on the scheme. If not, then it doesn't mean your child can not read the book but rather that there will be no quiz available and therefore it will not be recorded on your child's **Accelerated Reader (AR)** profile.

I have included two further links that will support parents with further information about **Accelerated Reader (AR)**;

https://www.renlearn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Parents-Guide-to-Accelerated-Reader_2016-17.pdf

<https://www.renlearn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/What-Parents-need-to-know.pdf>

I hope you find all this information sharing useful. As this system is new to all of us please bare with us as we get children set up and assess if they are reading books that are suits to their own level. If you need any further information or clarity about **Accelerated Reader (AR)** feel free to contact me or simply speak to your child's class teacher at the approaching parent consultations.

I hope you feel that together, we can help every child to be a successful reader!

Thank you for your continued support.

Ms Netta Costanzo

Interim Assistant Headteacher & SENDCo - Inclusion Lead