



## **A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader St Paul's CofE Junior School**

Your child will be participating in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. This guide is designed to answer any questions you may have about AR. If you have additional questions, please contact your child's teacher or visit the AR website at [www.renlearn.com](http://www.renlearn.com) to find out more.

### **What is Accelerated Reader?**

AR is a computer-based program that helps teachers manage and monitor pupils' individual reading practice. Your child will choose a book at their own level and read it at their own pace. When finished, they will take a short quiz on the computer. Passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood the book.

AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice.

AR is used as part of a comprehensive reading program in place at St Paul's CofE Junior School. While we continue to teach the skills of reading in class through group novels and texts, the AR books chosen by your child will provide them with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed.

### **What are STAR Reading Tests?**

Every child taking part in AR will complete a STAR reading test at least 4 times a year. It is a twenty minute multiple choice reading assessment completed individually on the computer. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses so if their response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If they miss a question or give an incorrect answer, the difficulty level is reduced.

The STAR reading test, along with teacher judgement assists us in identifying a child's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) range.



### **What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?**

After your child takes a STAR reading test the teacher will assess the results and give them a ZPD reading range. The range aims to challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation.

The school has colour coded the AR books (fiction and non-fiction) according to their ZPD number. To ensure children experience success from the outset they begin each year by taking books at the lower end of their ZPD range. Your child will know their range/colour and the books they should be choosing. A ZPD can change throughout the year based on STAR reading tests, professional judgement and quiz results.

### **What are the AR Quizzes?**

When your child has finished reading a book they will be given time to take a quiz independently on the computer. At St Paul's CoFE Junior School we aim for all quizzes to be taken within 48 hours of finishing a book. Depending on book level the quiz may be 5, 10 or 20 questions long and will take around 5 minutes to complete. The quiz assesses general comprehension of the book and results are calculated and shown to the child instantly.

The number of quizzes continues to grow as new books are added to AR. Your child can take a quiz when:

- they have read a book independently
- a teacher has read a book to them, e.g. class novel
- they have read a book with someone, e.g. parent/classroom assistant/sibling/buddy

Your child can bring in books from home or the local library to read as part of AR if their teacher feels they are suitable. To conduct a simple

book search to see if a book is on Accelerated Reader go to [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk)



### **How much will my child read during the school day?**

According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% success rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Therefore, at St Paul's CofE junior School we aim to set aside at least 20 minutes for reading each school day.

### **How will I know how my child is doing?**

Home Connect is a website that links school and home to keep parents informed of their child's progress in AR.



<https://Ukhosted65.renlearn.co.uk/2231751/HomeConnect>

Simply enter your child's user name and password (all children should know this) and you will be able to:

- review results on AR quizzes taken in school
- view the number of books read, words read and quizzes passed
- see a virtual bookshelf showing the books your child has read
- sign up (optional) to receive an email every time your child takes a quiz to share the results with you instantly

### **How can I help?**



As with anything, performance improves with practice. We provide lots of opportunities for reading in school, but you can help by providing a culture of reading at home.

Logging on to Home Connect with your child at home is a great way to discuss the books they have read and their overall progress in reading. Encourage your child to read with you and/or discuss what they have read. A child may be able to decode and read the words but may not have understood it, so asking questions about the book is important. Reading with your child, no matter what the age, is an important part of developing good reading skills and a lifelong love of reading.

Greg Byrne

Reading Co-ordinator

**“Reading Is To The Mind, What Exercise Is To The Body”** – Joseph Addison