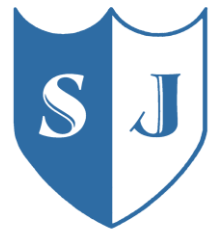


St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Wednesday 21st April, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very excited to inform you that your child will be participating in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. This guide is designed to answer your questions about AR. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or visit the Accelerated Reader website at www.renlearn.com/ar.

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) 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.

Children using AR choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.

School staff will help your child choose books at an appropriate reading level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success. If your child does not experience success then we may:

- Choose another book that is more appropriate.
- Ask more probing questions as your child reads and before he takes a quiz.
- Pair your child with another student, or even have the book read to your child.

In most cases, children really enjoy taking the quizzes. Since they're reading books at their reading and interest levels, they are likely to be successful. This is satisfying for most children. Best of all, they learn and grow at their own pace.

I'm concerned that my child will be unfairly compared to others. Then you'll really like AR because it helps the teacher work with each child individually. Students using AR are encouraged to progress at their own pace and set their own goals with the help of the teacher. The aim of AR is for all children to succeed in achieving their goals.

How does the school determine my child's reading level? Teachers determine your child's reading level using a STAR Reading test.

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What is a STAR Reading test? STAR Reading is a computerised reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 10- 15 minutes.

Children will be assessed using a Star Reading Test each half term and parents will be sent a copy of their child's results so they are able to see the progress their child is making.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)? In independent literature-based reading, ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test, or teachers can use their best professional judgment to determine a ZPD. It's important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs. ZPDs should be adjusted based on the needs of your child.

What are points? Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. AR points are computed based on the difficulty of the book and the length of the book (number of words).

How will I know if a book has an AR quiz? School reading books which have quizzes will have an AR sticker on the spine of the book and another sticker inside the front cover showing you a quiz number. You can also visit the AR BookFinder at arbookfind.com to conduct a search of all available books with AR quizzes.

How can I help my child find books that are interesting to them? Visit arbookfind.com and click on Advanced Search. By conducting an advanced search, you can generate book lists that contain titles based on the criteria you enter such as book level, topic, interest level, fiction/nonfiction, etc.

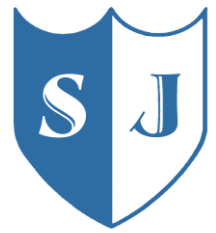
Is it OK for my child to read outside of their reading level?

Just because a child can read the words in a book does not mean the content is appropriate. The interest level of the material must be considered. Interest level is based on content - a book's themes and ideas - and indicates for which age group a book is appropriate. The chart below shows which ages fall into each interest level.

Interest Level	Year Level
LY - Lower Years	Ages 5-8
MY - Middle Years	Ages 9-13
MY+ - Middle Years Plus	Ages 12+
UY - Upper Years	Ages 14+

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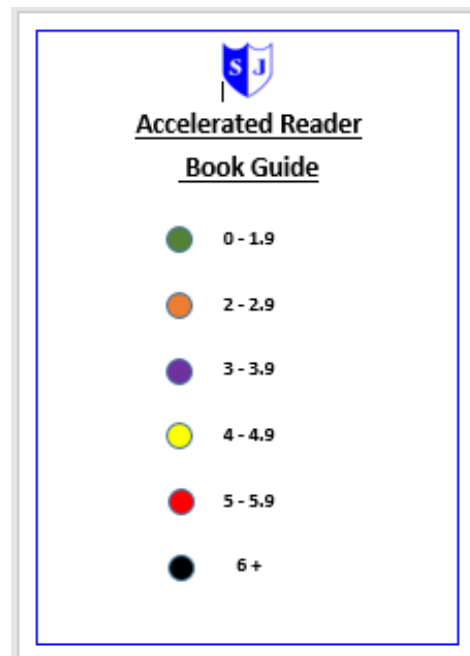
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My child already does well in school. Why does he/she need this? Even if a child is gifted at playing a musical instrument, the child has to practice to develop his or her talent. Bright children, like all children, need to be challenged. Teachers using Accelerated Reader software in their classrooms find it easy to guide each student to books that give the child both challenge and success, regardless of the child's level.

My child is not a strong reader. Can he/she still use Accelerated Reader? Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers, from students with special needs to those who are gifted and talented. When children read books at an appropriate level, they experience success. Furthermore, teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's reading level.

FOR EASE OF FINDING BOOKS IN SCHOOL WE ARE USING THE COLOUR CHART BELOW- THIS REPLACES THE COLOUR USED FOR THE PREVIOUS BOOK BANDED BOOKS.



We look forward to this exciting new reading programme. If you have any further questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K.Hinton
Headteacher