A Guide to

Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children’s independent reading practice. 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 on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets and ongoing reading practice.

**Star Reader**

• At the start of each term, each child takes a 'Star Reader' Reading Assessment in school.

• This gives an indication of each child's reading age and the range of reading book levels which are in that child's Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD).

• Results of the Star Reader test are noted in the back of Home School Journals.

**Choosing a Reading Book**

• Children using AR have a free choice of books they read, rather than having one assigned to them. This promotes independence and reading for pleasure.

• Children should generally choose to read books that are within their ZPD range, as these will provide challenge yet not be too difficult.

• Many books in school have the book level stuck on the book spine to show their difficulty.

• You can search to see the book level of thousands of other books at www.arbookfind.co.uk As well as telling you the book level, the result will also indicate the interest level as EY (Early Years = KS1), MY (Middle Years = KS2) or UY (Upper Years = KS3/4)

**Reading**

• Children read their chosen book at their own pace.

• Children who read for at least 20 minutes a day make the most gains. Therefore, your child will usually have at least 20 minutes set aside for reading during each school day.

• As with anything, performance improves with practice. Children who read more than this, in the evenings and at weekends, improve their skills even more. Creating a culture of reading in your household could be one of the best gifts you can give your child.

**Taking a Quiz**

• When children have completed their book, they can login to the Accelerated Reader website using their own username and password.

• The website can be accessed on computers in school and through the school website at home.

• Reading Practice Quizzes consist of 5, 10 or 20 multiple choice questions and measure his/her literal comprehension of the book.

• Children are given opportunities to take AR quizzes in class.

• If your child struggles to read the question, you can read it aloud. However, you should not help him/her to answer a question. Children can look in their book to help them find the answer – it is not a memory test.

• Children can also take quizzes on books they have heard and read with an adult – there is an to option to select this before they begin a quiz.