



**ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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*Headteacher: Miss D McGrail*

Wokingham Borough Council

Diocese of Oxford

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Dear Parents and Carers

### **Accelerated Reader Program**

At St Nicholas Primary School, we are passionate about ensuring that every child is a confident reader. One of the ways we do this is to use a computer program called Accelerated Reader (AR). Some of you will already know about AR as the school introduced it in the late Spring Term of this academic year 2020/21 for children in Key Stage 2.

Accelerated Reader 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.

Teachers may assist children by:

- 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 15 minutes a day to independent reading, which we refer to as 'Drop Everything and Read' time.

Please encourage your child to also read at home, discuss books, ask questions about what they have read and visit your local library. Together, we can help every child to be a successful reader!

At school, STAR Reading is used to determine your child's reading level. It is a computer-based reading assessment program linked to AR 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. The children currently in KS2 have already taken two STAR tests, to allow us to monitor their progress from the launch of the scheme.

Teachers will support your child in taking a STAR Reading assessment four times annually.

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. This range will be shared with them in reading records.

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 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 and parents should use their best judgement when guiding children in choosing their books. We have lots of books that the children can choose from in school, however we are also aware that many children like to read their own books from home. You can visit the website [www.arbookfind.co.uk](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 AR profile.

All junior pupils have their own login and password to access the quizzes and pupils are welcome to access them over the summer holiday via [ukhosted125.renlearn.co.uk/6712595](http://ukhosted125.renlearn.co.uk/6712595)

A copy of the official AR Guide for Parents is available on the [Accelerated Reader page](#) of our school website.

Please see your child's class teacher for any more information regarding Accelerated Reader.

Thank you for your continued support.



Miss D McGrail  
Headteacher