



*'A happy and holy place of learning  
and the centre of a thriving community'*

St Benet's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents & Carers,

We are delighted to announce that St Benet's has just launched Accelerated Reader for all children in Key Stage 2.

### What is Accelerated Reader?

- Accelerated Reader is a computer-based program that schools may use to monitor reading practice and progress.
- It helps teachers guide children to books that are at their individual reading levels.
- Children take short quizzes after reading a book to check if they've understood it.

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a popular reading program used in 6,000 schools in the UK. AR helps teachers track students' independent practice and progress with reading. It's not specifically designed for children who learn and think differently but teachers can use it to help guide struggling readers to books they can read successfully.

The program doesn't teach reading skills and strategies. It's intended to encourage children to read independently, at their own level and pace.

The idea behind AR is that children enjoy reading more when they can select their own books. (The program has thousands of titles to choose from on its Book finder list - <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk>).

Each book has online "reading practice" quizzes, and teachers use these quizzes to track each student's progress and set appropriate goals for each. Once children have read a book, they will then complete a short quiz in school (ideally within 2 days) based on the book and this will inform the teacher of how much understanding the child has and then the child will choose a new book at their appropriate reading level.

### Accelerated Reader at St Benet's

We are excited to use this programme across Key Stage 2 and have been busy organising the school library to facilitate this. We have over 600 books ready for children to take home to read, but are aware that this will be an ongoing process for many weeks to ensure texts of a wide variety of genre are added into our library. I would like to take this opportunity to ask for any school reading books to be returned to St Benet's as quickly as possible-we understand how easy it is to lose track of books children take home as home readers but as soon as these books are returned, we can scan them and potentially add them to our school AR library for all children to enjoy.

Moving forward, could we ask that children bring their **Reading record** along with their **AR book** into school **each day** so that if there is any time available during the school day, children can continue to read their AR book at school as well as at home. We will continue to use the current reading rewards system we have in place so please date and sign your child's record whenever he/she reads. We really appreciate your continued support with your child's reading journey and this can only further support progression and a shared pleasure for reading.

Lastly, to clarify, AR books replace the current home reader books children may have been borrowing from school. Although we would like the reading of these texts to be prioritised, we understand children will want to read texts in addition to this, which we will continue to encourage. Reading is, after all, a priority at St. Benet's!

Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter,

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Bissell (English Lead) and Key Stage 2 Staff.



