At Our Lady and St John Catholic College, we are passionate about ensuring that every child is a reader. One of the ways we do this is to use a computer program called Accelerated Reader. Some of you will already know about Accelerated Reader as many Primary Schools utilise this with children in Key Stage 2.

Accelerated Reader helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practise. 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 at least 15 minutes a day to independent reading. **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!**

In school, STAR Reading is used to determine your child's reading level. It is a computer-based reading assessment program 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. Teachers will support your child in taking a STAR Reading assessment every half term. 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. 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 are recommended to 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 to search all the available books with AR quizzes to see if the book your child wants to read is on the scheme. If not, then it does not 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. Please see your child's class teacher for any more information regarding Accelerated Reader.

Your child can access Accelerated Reader from home, and we encourage your child to use this website regularly to take their reading tests. As you can appreciate, time for this in school can be limited. To access the website please type in the web address below (it is imperative that you use this web address rather than he generic Accelerated Reader website, as this is our school's domain:

Website: https://ukhosted105.renlearn.co.uk/2241340/

Username: (INITIAL AND FIRST FOUR LETTERS OF SURNAME) E.g., John Smith would be **JSMIT**

Password: **ABC**