

Reading

At Holy Family, we use the Accelerated Reader program for reading. Accelerated Reader (AR) is a computer program that helps teachers to 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 online – passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. Once this has been completed, children can change their reading book.

The Interest Level sticker at the top of the book spine indicates for which age group a book is appropriate, based on the content and themes. In Lower KS2, the sticker on the top of the spine of your child's book will likely be **brown**. However, we do use best judgement when guiding pupils to books. In Key Stage 2, children should be reading for **20 minutes every night**.

Although reading is recorded through quizzes completed on Accelerated reader for KS2, it is important that daily reading is tracked using reading diaries. By recording the page number each time your child reads, we are able to track your child's reading habits and the frequency of their reading. Additional comments can be added if required. Your child can take responsibility for filling in their diary; we do ask that parents sign the diary through the week to confirm the reading records as being accurate.

It is recommended that reading diaries are kept in school book bags every day so they are accessible; they will be checked and signed in class on a Monday and Friday.

Spellings

Our spelling approach has been introduced across Years 2-6 which provides a range of strategies for children to use when spelling words. The activities are built on the fundamentals of teaching spelling with strong phonic foundations and allow children to practise, explore and investigate a range of words. Through our teaching, we are encouraging the children to make links between words and find patterns within them.

To support this approach, children will be given 15 spellings to learn fortnightly as part of their homework. The words set will be taught in class and unpicked to identify sounds and their matching grapheme representations. This is so our children can recognise how sounds are written and then they can apply this knowledge to the spelling of other words. At the end of the two-week cycle, the children will be given words to spell in class that are not the same as have been practised at home, but words that contain the same sounds and graphemes. Please encourage your child to practise these spellings at home in frequent, short bursts across the fortnight to help those spellings stick.

