

# HUMMERSKNOTT ACADEMY

10 November 2020

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Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer

Executive Principal: Mr J M Keating B Ed Hons, NPQH

Further to previous letters regarding the Accelerated Reader scheme, I am writing to advise that all students in Year 7 have now taken a Star Reading computer-adaptive reading test. This test is benchmarked nationally with other students from over 67,000 schools who are enrolled in the Accelerated Reader scheme.

The attached report summarises your child's scores on the test. As with any test, many factors can affect a student's scores. It is important to understand that these test scores provide only one picture of how your child is doing in school.

Please find below further details regarding some of the grading categories on the report:

**Scaled Score (SS):** indicates how well the students have performed on the questions asked on the test. This score goes up to 1400 and the minimum target benchmark is 600.

**Percentile Rank (PR):** compares your child's test performance with that of other students nationally of the same age. A PR of 55, for example, would indicate that a student reads at a level greater than 55% of other students nationally of the same age. This score is average. The PR Range indicates that, if this student had taken the Star Reading test numerous times, most of her scores would likely have fallen between 45 and 66.

**Norm Referenced Standardised Score (NRSS):** compares students nationally with others who share the same birthday. A score of 100 is average for that age. A higher score is above norm, and a lower score is below norm.

**Student Growth Percentile (SGP):** describes a student's rate of reading development compared to other students nationally with similar starting test scores. This data will become available once students have taken more than one Star assessment as it is a progress measure.

**Reading Age (RA):** tells you your child's reading ability as the average age at which a comparable ability is usually found. As with the SS, this value is likely to be more accurate if students have taken their time to complete the Star Assessment. In some cases, students spend less than the recommended 20 minutes on completing the test which can skew the data.

**Domain scores:** Star tests also aim to measure the National Curriculum skills that are vital to making progress in reading, namely vocabulary development, understanding and ability to respond to texts. Scores are recorded as a percentage to reflect the extent to which the skills are being mastered.



**The Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD):** is the reading level range from which your child should be selecting books for optimal growth in reading. It spans reading levels that are appropriately challenging for reading practice. This range is approximate. Success at any reading level depends on your child's interest and prior knowledge of a book's content. Most books in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) have been labelled with ZPD ranges to help students to select books that are appropriate to their reading ability.

As a school, we will be using these Star Reading scores to help your child further develop their reading skills. We have access to individual targets and personalised suggested strategies that will help teachers and your child to improve discussion skills, understanding and interpreting texts as well as engaging and responding to texts.

As always, we really appreciate your ongoing support in encouraging your son/daughter to read independently. Accelerated Reader has thousands of books in its database. Alternatively, the levels of other books you may have at home can be checked by visiting [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk); this will give you what is called the ATOS Book Level, the ages the book is aimed at, the points it is worth and its quiz number.

If you don't have many books at home, or your child prefers to read on a Kindle, tablet or mobile phone, they also have a logon for an online AR reading platform called MyOn, again accessed through the student portal. This uses the same logon and password as their Accelerated Reader site. Through this, students can access thousands and thousands of books.

We have seen, in some cases, that reading ages and ability have actually gone backwards when routine reading hasn't taken place.

If you have any questions about the enclosed report or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Jill Maddren  
Literacy/Teaching & Learning Development