

Success story

Burrowmoor Primary School, Cambridgeshire

School Profile

Number of pupils	435
EAL	<1%
Free School Meals	10%

Burrowmoor Primary School has been on this site for over 100 years. You can still see the original "boys" and "girls" entrances used way back then. Some say it is even haunted!

The school has 435 pupils whose age range from Nursery up to Year 6. Each Year Group is divided into two classes. We have less than one per cent EAL pupils and 10% are eligible for free school meals.

Our use of the Accelerated Reader (AR) program has grown since being taken on by myself last year. We originally only had the Year 5 and 6's on it (around 120 pupils), but since then it has grown to take on any pupil who fit our AR criteria. The youngest we have on it are in Year 2; this goes right across the school to Year 6, and next year we hope to roll it out to even more pupils. Although AR has been in the school for some time, it was not being used to the best of its ability. Since taking it on board as part of my job as Librarian, it has evolved into a solid, driven reading scheme.

AR gives the pupils the confidence to read without the ridicule sometimes associated with books. Because each individual is tested on their ability it gives them the drive to improve their reading on a personal level. The incentive schemes I run in the school also encourage the pupils to do well. If the child is confident in their reading, and can see they are doing well, that confidence can 'spill over' into other core subjects.

The teachers use AR to identify which books are best suited to their guided reading groups. They will give an Author to me, and I will research and get back to them with a list of appropriate books. They can then be sure that the books their reading groups are using are best suited to them.

It is too early to tell whether AR has made a difference to the SATs results, but

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Burrowmoor Primary School, Cambridgeshire *continued...*

judging by the overall improvement of the STAR Reading diagnostic report run last year we are hoping for good results.

The children read a variety of books and can identify with history and geography as a result of reading. The aim is now to improve our non-fiction section as it is not as big as our fiction.

Since fully implementing AR it has made a huge difference to the library circulation. I have been with Burrowmoor nearly two years now. When I first arrived you never saw anyone in the library, but now it is one of the busiest places - especially at lunchtimes and in the mornings.

AR has definitely motivated pupils to read, especially the boys. I have a Year 5 pupil who is hardly ever out of the library and wants to continually beat his target. In Year 6 I have a girl who struggled with her reading last year, but now is continually hitting her goals and even exceeding them. Another example is a Year 6 boy who was really struggling with his reading; since being on AR he has already achieved his ready reader, and is striving for his second. Coupled with the other incentive schemes I run, which include a medal and certificate for 5x100%, and an entry into the 'Hall of Fame'. I also have an 'AR cup', which is presented to the overall class winner at the end of the year.

The pupils think AR is great. They all enjoy using it and I make a special point of seeing as many of the TOPS reports as I can so I can guide them and ensure they get the most from their reading experience. We held an AR presentation evening and the parents that came said they had noticed an improvement in their child's reading since being on the scheme.

As a Librarian, I believe reading is paramount in any child's education. Once you have a confident reader they can go on to achieve anything - Accelerated Reader allows them to do just that.

Audrey Morton, Librarian

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