



*****NEWS RELEASE***NEWS RELEASE*****

Children's reading on the rise in Conwy

One primary school in Conwy is causing a stir when it comes to raising literacy standards amongst schoolchildren in Wales. Although a recent report from Estyn suggests that primary school pupils in Wales are not making enough progress in reading and writing, Ysgol Gynradd Bro Cernyw has found Renaissance Learning's Accelerated Reader program has "*created an interest again in books, and done so at age nine to 11, which is quite an achievement*", according to Deputy Head Teacher Rhodri Evans.

According to Rhodri, the power of the program comes from letting all pupils work at their own level; catering for everyone from reluctant to stronger readers. It allows each pupil to achieve some level of success, thereby steadily raising their confidence with no loss of face amongst their peers. He attributes a lot of the success to the fact that children simply love the Accelerated Reader quizzes, and is in no doubt that they like to take them as often as they can.

"It has created a buzz that has even excited boys as well as girls, who are all taking books out at harder levels and responding well to our efforts to push them all forward. We see a few pupils whose confidence in reading English has really developed and they are taking home much more challenging books, so much so that we are always looking to increase our stock of books," said Rhodri.

Another teacher commenting on the impact of Accelerated Reader at the school adds: *"Definitely, it has had an effect on reading. Even reluctant readers love it and are now able to take on more challenging books. It is much easier for us to monitor individual progress – we have all the data we need."*

Used by over 220,000 children in more than 2,000 primary and secondary schools across the UK every day, more information on Renaissance Learning's Accelerated Reader program can be found at www.renlearn.co.uk, which contains full details of this – and other – Accelerated Reader success stories.

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About Renaissance Learning UK Limited

Renaissance Learning UK Limited is a subsidiary of Renaissance Learning Inc, a company founded in Wisconsin (USA) in 1986. Renaissance Learning UK Ltd is a leading provider of educational solutions to primary and secondary schools across the United Kingdom.

Adopted by more than 75,000 schools worldwide Renaissance Learning's advanced technology makes the practice component of a school's reading, maths and writing curriculum more personalised and effective than ever before. The company's hosted and web-delivered Accelerated Reader Advantage and Accelerated Maths Advantage programmes are used successfully by well over 220,000 children in the UK every day to help them improve their results and achieve a life-long love of reading.

Renaissance Learning produces software that provides teachers and pupils with immediate access to information on academic performance. This information technology provides timely and reliable feedback that enhances individualised instruction, creating a better learning environment for more motivated pupils.

Renaissance works closely with the National Literacy Trust and Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, and is supported by best-selling authors for children, such as Malorie Blackman, Peter J Murray and GP Taylor.