



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

Continuous assessment key to success in literacy and numeracy

Commenting on the primary school league table revelation that over 150,000 children are unable to read, write and add up properly by the time they are aged 11, Schools minister Sarah McCarthy-Fry said: *"We are committed to ensuring that pupils who fall behind are spotted quickly and support is in place to help them."*

At Renaissance Learning, the value of continuous assessment and progress monitoring has never been underestimated. Each day over 240,000 children are boosting their literacy and numeracy skills with the Accelerated Reader Advantage and Accelerated Maths Advantage programs. The Accelerated Reader program in particular is proving very successful in motivating reluctant readers – particularly boys – as well as supporting 'gifted and talented' pupils.

Godmanchester Community Primary school, soon to be awarded 'Model School' status by Renaissance Learning and deemed 'outstanding' in a recent Ofsted report, have already seen the benefit of using Accelerated Reader. They are now also using AlphaSmart's lightweight, portable NEO 2 note taking devices to aid writing, with considerable success.

Dirk Foch, Managing Director of Renaissance Learning UK Ltd, comments: *"Despite the millions of pounds spent by the Government on various literacy and numeracy programmes, these results show that overall success is falling short. However, the high standards of reading, writing and maths achieved by over 2,000 schools that use Accelerated Reader and Maths demonstrate the power of low-cost, continuous, personalised instruction."*

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For further press enquiries, please contact Gareth Andrews, Tel: 020 7184 4074, email gandrews@renlearn.co.uk, or Nicki Walker, Tel: 020 7184 4071, email nwalker@renlearn.co.uk, website: www.renlearn.co.uk.



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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 240,000 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.