

Success story

Downham Feoffees Primary School, Ely

School Profile

Number of pupils	196
EAL	tbc
Free School Meals	tbc

Motivating children in Key Stage 2 to read regularly is always a challenge for primary schools, irrespective of the school's catchment area.

In Deputy Head Jenny Maynard's experience, Key Stage 1 is very well catered for with reading schemes that enable pupils to progress their reading step by step. But in Key Stage 2 it was more difficult to ensure that the children were choosing books at the right level of challenge.

When Jenny became Deputy Head at Downham Feoffees over three years ago, she immediately introduced Renaissance Learning's Accelerated Reader program to address this issue: in other words, to provide a graded reading programme for KS2.

"I had used it at my previous school, and thought it was the ideal tool to fill this gap," she explains. "We had a very similar intake of children, with the same motivational issues, so I was confident it would be effective."

Jenny began with Years 5 and 6, then a year later added Years 3 and 4. She also introduces the program to Year 2 pupils that have completed their reading scheme, to keep them progressing and give structure to their reading.

"It helps pupils build up their skills in a structured way," she explains. "It also provides a lot of information for the teachers."

At Downham Feoffees, Accelerated Reader is not used during the Literacy Hour, which is devoted to meeting specific curriculum objectives. All classes have additional dedicated reading time, which may include group reading, individual reading and the opportunity to take quizzes. Pupils are also encouraged to read when the register is being taken and at other times during the day.

"Children need to be reading daily," Jenny says. "It's also important that they read aloud regularly or they lose their fluency - so I encourage them to take the books

Continued overleaf

For more information on Accelerated Reader please call FREEphone
0800 917 4447 or visit www.renlearn.co.uk



Success story

Downham Feoffees Primary School, Ely *continued...*

home, and if their parents are too busy, I tell them to read to their teddy bear or pet. The lovely thing about this is that it's real books they're reading."

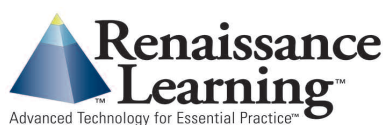
Jenny believes that any new initiative takes two-three years to embed fully within a school, so it is still early days. However, it has already made an impact.

In 2005, the first complete year of using the program, everyone in Year 6 obtained Level 4 in the SATs and 50% reached Level 5 - a significant improvement on the previous year. Progress has continued at this level since.

"Some children in particular have made huge improvements to their reading," says Jenny. "One boy, who was below average in his reading, made such progress that he came top in his year's SATs results. I would definitely put that down to Accelerated Reader."

She adds: *"As a teacher, you would try anything to get pupils to read."* Jenny concludes: *"We have found this is very motivational, and I would definitely recommend it to other schools."*

For more information on Accelerated Reader please call FREEphone **0800 917 4447** or visit **www.renlearn.co.uk**



Renaissance Learning UK Ltd.
32 Harbour Exchange Square
London E14 9GE

AR-Primary-raising standards

