

# Success story

## Mile Oak Primary School, Brighton

### School Profile

Number of pupils	476
EAL	tbc
Free School Meals	tbc

Named 'Reading Connects primary school of the year' for 2007/08 in recognition of developing an "outstanding" whole-school reading community, Mile Oak Primary in Brighton was also shortlisted for the 'Outstanding Literacy Initiative' TES award for 2009.

Such success does not happen by chance, it requires the commitment, determination and support of both teachers and pupils. When Deputy Head Teacher Martin Cooper joined the school, he noticed that whilst pupils appeared keen to take books from the library, they were bringing them back early as they were not actually reading them. Having seen the positive effect Renaissance Learning's Accelerated Reader Advantage program had on standards of literacy at his previous school, he decided to introduce it at Mile Oak at the earliest opportunity. In addition to founding a new library, a designated 'AR Room' was established that offers pupils the freedom to take books out whenever they wish.

The program was initially introduced to Years 5 and 6, and has now been extended to other groups across the school. Pupils are tested and 'levelled' each term using Renaissance Learning's STAR Reading program, which provides an accurate estimated reading level for each pupil and determines their 'Zone of Proximal Development' for use with Accelerated Reader.

One of the key factors to the success of Accelerated Reader is ensuring that the teachers fully engage with the program, and Martin was worried that some of the longest serving members of staff may not be convinced by its introduction. However, he was pleasantly surprised when one colleague, who has been teaching for over 35 years, described it as "*the most effective tool for encouraging reading*" that they had ever seen.

Three computers are allocated to each class in the school; ensuring pupils have no

Continued overleaf

For more information on Accelerated Reader please call FREEphone  
**0800 917 4447** and quote SS-MO-09 or visit our website  
**[www.renlearn.co.uk](http://www.renlearn.co.uk)**



# Success story

## Mile Oak Primary School, Brighton *continued...*

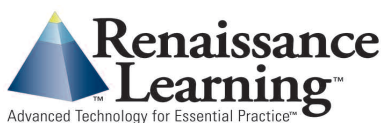
difficulty completing their Accelerated Reader quizzes once they have finished reading their book. The school has also recently added some NEO 2s from AlphaSmart that offer even more flexibility for the pupils to quiz when or wherever they wish, whilst also helping them with their writing practice.

Like many other schools using the program, Martin has seen a great improvement in the motivation and enthusiasm of reluctant readers at Mile Oak - particularly amongst the boys. "Accelerated Reader is proving very popular with boys you would never have imagined would ever pick up a book and enjoy reading it," observed Martin.

Each term 'Reading Champions' - who have met or exceeded their Accelerated Reader targets, demonstrated significant improvement or set a good example to others - are selected from every Year group throughout the school. The pupils chosen have their photos displayed on the 'Wall of Readers', and Martin plans to introduce a Hollywood-style 'Walk of Fame' that will be a fun, permanent reminder of their achievements. In addition, the pupils are rewarded with exciting trips and activities - such as a trip to Brighton's Theatre Royal to attend the premier of the Wizard of Oz, and a taste of life at the David Beckham Academy - which proves very motivating for them to do their best to succeed.

Since its introduction at Mile Oak Primary two years ago, Accelerated Reader has gone from strength to strength, and will continue to play an important role in the rise of literacy standards at the school for many years to come.

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

AR Primary - Reluctant Readers

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