

# Success story

## Walnut Tree Walk Primary School, London

### School Profile

Number of pupils	287
EAL	tbc
Free School Meals	tbc

Jeanne Carabine, Head Teacher at Walnut Tree Primary School in Kennington, South London, found that many children weren't finishing the books they had chosen to read. Walnut Tree Walk receives money from the Behaviour Improvement Programme (BIP) and a focus on reading is seen as an important way of improving classroom behaviour. Jeanne wanted to find a way to quickly spark more enthusiasm, motivation and passion for reading and to get pupils to take a real interest in finishing books and completing assignments.

BIP provided funding for the school to take Renaissance Learning's Accelerated Reader program, after a study showed that the individualised learning format of quizzes and point scoring, which it provides, helps pupils to concentrate, develop a genuine interest in what they're reading, and see books through to their conclusions.

The program was first launched for Year 6 (10-11), but now covers 150 pupils aged six to 11, meaning that more than half Walnut Tree Walk's roll are currently taking part. The seven teachers involved all received intensive on-site coaching from Renaissance as well as online guidance. Meanwhile, parents were informed by letter of the introduction of Accelerated Reader and how it works, and asked to encourage their children's further reading at home.

*"The combination of computers, quizzes and points targets has," says Jeanne, "proved an irresistible combination, with staff reporting that the upsurge in enthusiasm for literature has been phenomenal."*

Using SATs results as a yardstick, pupils have achieved two years' improvement in one year and teachers report that interest in literature has rocketed, with turnover of books in the school library described as little short of remarkable. One class is currently averaging an 80% success rate in the online quizzes, just short of the 85% needed for the class to achieve Renaissance's 'model classroom' certification.

Continued overleaf

For more information on Accelerated Reader please call FREEphone  
**0800 917 4447** or visit [www.renlearn.co.uk](http://www.renlearn.co.uk)



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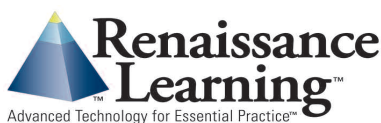
## Walnut Tree Walk Primary School London *continued...*

Jeanne adds: *"There has been a huge increase in the sense of fulfilment in my job. Pupils' enhanced keenness to learn makes teaching far more enjoyable and rewarding."*

She concludes: *"Working together on the program means I develop a much closer relationship with my pupils, and the instant feedback on screen makes it far easier to monitor progress."*

The pupils are equally enthusiastic: *"Reading is fun now, especially the quizzes, which tell me straight away how well I am doing and make me want to do better."* Another adds: *"I like being able to use computers and being allowed to select my own books, which mean I can make sure they don't bore me like they used to."*

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AR-Primary-raising standards

