



"The change that has taken place over the last three years of using AR has been amazing!"

» Burrowmoor Primary School

The school introduced **Accelerated Reader™ (AR™)** from Renaissance Learning™ over three years ago to help raise literacy standards. **Audrey Morton** is the School Librarian with overall responsibility for running both the Library and AR within Burrowmoor. Here she shares her experiences of the transformation that has taken place:

"Literacy standards were average before the introduction of Accelerated Reader in our school. There were lots of different approaches to reading, but what we were missing was an effective and cohesive way of supporting and following on from the various reading schemes. **However, the change that has taken place over the last three years of using AR has been amazing!**

Our children now love the Library and book loans have tripled. It used to be a quiet, dusty place with very few visitors - but we now have to open before school starts and during lunchtimes to cope with the demand for quizzing. All the children understand how AR works and what their individual targets are, which thanks to in-depth reporting I am able to closely monitor with the teachers to support every child's reading and progress and intervene to deal with any problems that are highlighted.

The ability to accurately identify the actual reading ages and levels of our children using STAR Reading™² has allowed me to more effectively manage the books we stock. Having filled the 'gaps' in lower-level reading books I am now tailoring the higher end to ensure all our readers have access to a collection that will allow



them to quiz and work to their full potential. I have also spent a long time identifying and collating information in order to boost our non-fiction titles as the boys tend to especially enjoy them, which encourages them to read and quiz.

To cope with the demand for quizzing we started using Renaissance Learning's **NEO 2™³** classroom tools alongside traditional school computers, which the children really like using. However, I am very much aware of their potential to do much more than this and will certainly be looking into using them more in the future.

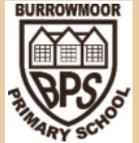


As overall standards of reading have improved, it is also positively affecting writing skills. Children are now using dictionaries and thesauruses more as they begin to understand the context of the books they are reading.

Now that AR has become ingrained within the school's culture we have confident readers who can choose books from within their recommended range. The children are not only choosing books to achieve the results they want in their quizzes, but are genuinely reading for pleasure. **I have seen so many children start their journey on AR as shy, awkward, reluctant readers blossom into driven,**

School Background:

Burrowmoor is a rural primary school in the town of March, Cambridgeshire with 435 students that range from Nursery to Year 6. Less than one percent of students speak English as an Additional Language and approximately 10 percent are eligible for Free School Meals.



What is a Champion School?

To qualify as a Champion School a school must be able to demonstrate measurable 'success' with Renaissance Learning products, particularly in terms of the implementation of **Best Classroom Practices⁴** to motivate students of all ages and abilities, improved academic achievement, development of a reading culture and other key criteria.



“ At Burrowmoor we view it very much as a three-way success story - the school, the parents and, most importantly of all, the children. ”

Continued Overleaf...



"I am very proud of what we have achieved with Accelerated Reader"

happy confident children as they realise they can read and, more importantly, they can succeed.

I run an annual competition for the 'AR cup', which is a trophy that is awarded to the class with the most 'purple stars'. These are awarded to individuals who achieve 85% or above on their quizzes. If they reach 25 stars within the year the individual is given a special certificate and a present from me. The children are also rewarded for achieving five 100% quiz scores. This is all run alongside the certificates automatically generated and issued by AR. I reward those that need extra encouragement with gifts and incentives, such as bookmarks, and run designated reading groups for those that need additional support.

Having already been awarded both Model and Master Library status by

Renaissance Learning, we are now working towards achieving Model School certification⁵. To help do this and spread the message of the importance of personalised reading practice outside of the classroom, I run special 'introductory sessions' for new parents as I feel it is important to have their support. **At Burrowmoor we view it very much as a three-way success story – the school, the parents and, most importantly of all, the children.**

I am very proud of what we have achieved with Accelerated Reader and the various incentives and competitions we run here in order for our children to reach their full potential. I am passionate about children's reading and truly believe that once a child realises they can read they have the confidence to shine."

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"The ability to identify specific groups of students is proving to be a godsend in these times where Ofsted is looking so vigorously at attainment"

Marina Lee, Librarian, Clacton County High School

- ¹ **Accelerated Reader** offers personalised reading practice for pupils of all ages and abilities with over 20,000 fun, motivational quizzes on popular books ranging from The Hungry Caterpillar to Roald Dahl, and the Harry Potter series to the Classics - as well as non-fiction titles - which test a student's understanding of what they have just read.
- ² **STAR Reading** is computer-adaptive baseline assessment software that quickly and accurately establishes the actual reading age and National Curriculum Level of individual students, so that growth can be easily measured.
- ³ **NEO 2** The ultimate writing tool; NEO 2 helps students of all ages and abilities become confident, enthusiastic writers and supports Accelerated Reader, Accelerated Maths and MathsFacts in a Flash software - offering personalised practice both in and out of the classroom.
- ⁴ **AR Best Practices** are research-based guiding principles for using Accelerated Reader to ensure fidelity of implementation.
- ⁵ **Renaissance Certification** is a professional recognition programme for educators implementing Accelerated Reader and/or Accelerated Maths according to Renaissance Learning's research-based Best Practices.

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