

# **Biggest help is easily determining where pupils are having problems**

## **STOBERRY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL, WELLS**

### **Scale of the challenge**

Stoberry Primary, an inner city school in Wells, had used group reading exercises but was looking for a scheme that would boost interest in reading. This, combined with the school's new internet and computer suite being installed, provided a good opportunity to change the reading scheme.

Barbara Tupper, Administration Assistant and Accelerated Reader Co-ordinator, added, "At that time there was a particularly weak group of boys who were not interested in books, so the opportunity created by Accelerated Reader to work on books that catered for boys' interests was very welcome."

### **Implementation**

The reading program was implemented four years ago with each year group from 3 to 6 in turn. Barbara explained: "In the space of one year, with input from our Literacy Co-ordinator, we made sure all the pupils in years 3 to 6 were on Accelerated Reader."

The system is now used by all the pupils in Years 3 to 6, working with their Classroom Assistants, making two thirds of the school's children. The teachers receive regular reports and test the pupils' reading levels twice per year.

### **Results**

"Some of our pupils in years 5 and 6 have the reading age of 15 – 16 year olds!" enthused Barbara.

She added that the children are now very enthusiastic about reading and enjoy taking the quizzes. "Getting marks helps them understand what they are being asked," Barbara explained.

"It's also encouraging to see their interest when the travelling book library comes round and our town library holds book festivals for schools."

**What teachers say...**

"Its biggest help to us is in showing up problems where pupils can read the words but don't understand what they're reading"

"The regular quiz element shows us what's happening in the pupils' reading"

**What pupils say....**

"I read a lot more now"

"There are a lot of books to choose from"

"I have really moved on in my reading"