



Reading for pleasure & reading initiatives

Insight report

All books, half price, always.

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader[®]
Partner

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Introduction

Welcome to Laburnum House Educational's insight report into reading for pleasure and reading initiatives, which we hope you will find informative and packed full of ideas on shared practice.

At Laburnum House Educational we have supplied heavily discounted books to schools for over 25 years. We offer a wide range of titles for primary and secondary, fiction and non-fiction, and are specialists in supporting schools which are running Accelerated Reader.

Everything is half price, all Accelerated Reader books are pre-labelled with the quiz details free of charge, and there is free delivery on all orders over £50.

We have reached out to our community of Headteachers, subject leaders, literacy co-ordinators, teachers and librarians to learn more about their approaches to the teaching of reading, and collate and share these within our community and with other schools.

As you will see, in this report we explore issues such as the time given in school to reading for pleasure (and the barriers), the use of initiatives such as whole class reading, Accelerated Reader and Tutor Time Reading, as well as books to help grab the attention of reluctant readers.

Thank you to each and every one of the 147 people who completed our survey up to and including the end of the spring term in April 2021 – your input is greatly appreciated. We plan to repeat this insight report in the 2021-22 academic year, but in the meantime remain available to help you in any way we can.

Jeremy

Jeremy Stallman, Managing Director



Summary

Most schools (28%) allocate 15-20 minutes to reading for pleasure in school every day and only 12% for more than 25 minutes.

Over half of respondents (53%) say they do not encourage reading for pleasure in the school day as there is not enough time.

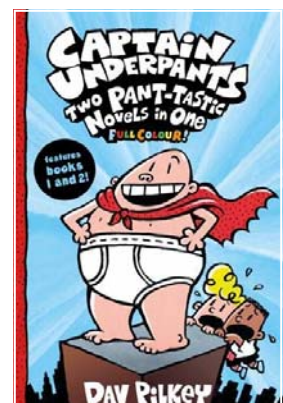
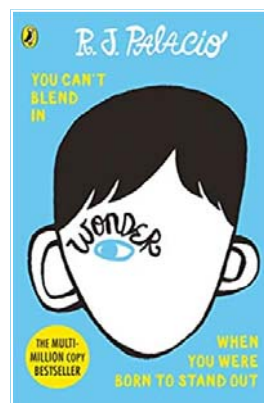
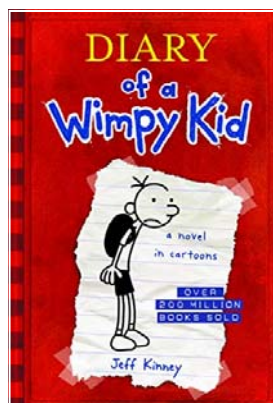
The overwhelming majority of respondents (90%) use Accelerated Reader in their school as a supporting reading initiative.

Over two thirds of schools (69%) undertake whole class reading or whole class guided reading.

To grab the attention of the general reluctant reader schools mostly suggest:

1. Diary of a Wimpy Kid,
2. Wonder, and
3. Captain Underpants.

Any text by David Williams or Liz Pichon's Tom Gates is also highly recommended.

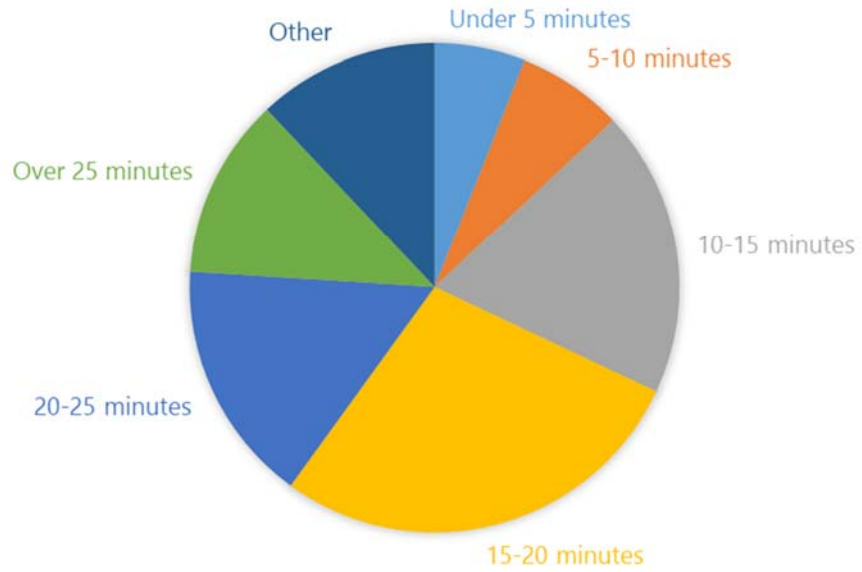


Key findings

Reading for pleasure

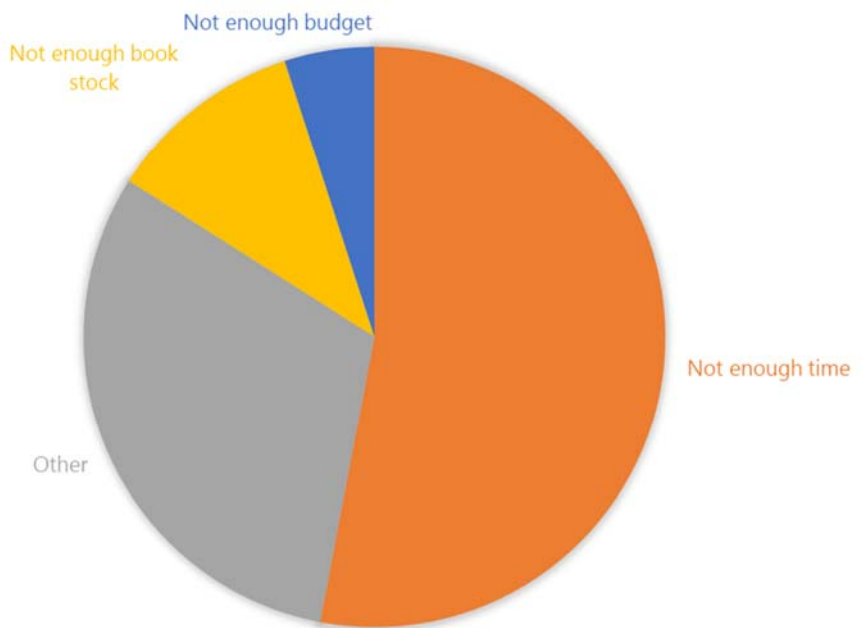
The majority of schools responding to our survey give 15-20 minutes to reading for pleasure in school every day. 53% of those report that they do not encourage reading for pleasure in school time due to there not being enough time. This finding suggests that more could be done during class time to generate a love of reading.

How much time do you give to reading for pleasure in school every day?



Under 5 minutes	6%
5-10 minutes	7%
10-15 minutes	19%
15-20 minutes	28%
20-25 minutes	16%
Over 25 minutes	12%
Other	12%

If you do not encourage reading for pleasure in school time, what are your main reasons why?



Not enough time	53%
Other	31%
Not enough book stock	11%
Not enough budget	5%

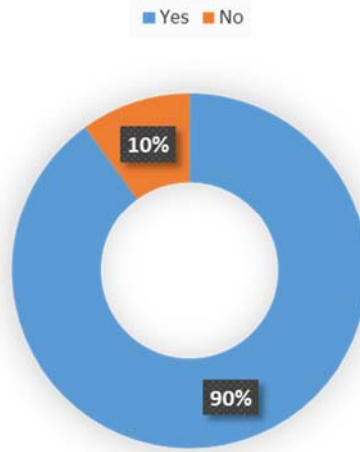


Key findings

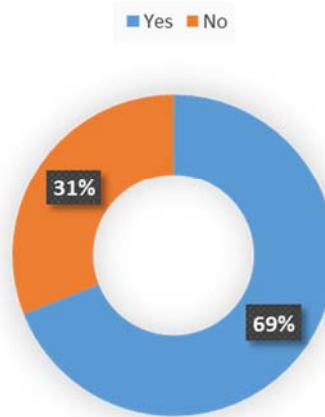
Reading initiatives

Over 90% of respondents to our survey use Accelerated Reader at their school. A further 69% also do whole class reading, or whole class guided reading. Less than half run Tutor Time Reading. Other reading initiatives include book clubs, reading buddies and paired reading.

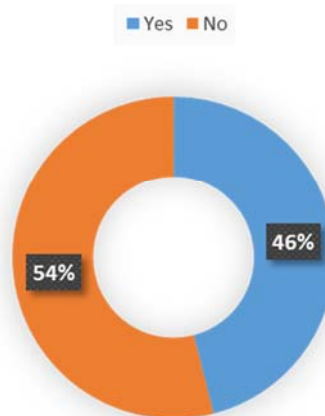
Do you use Accelerated Reader in your school?



Do you do whole class reading, or whole class guided reading in your school?



Do you run Tutor Time Reading sessions at your school?



Top 3 'other' initiatives:

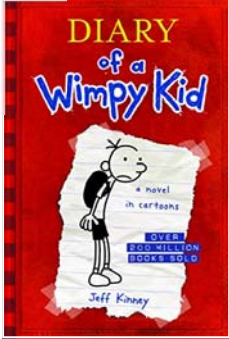
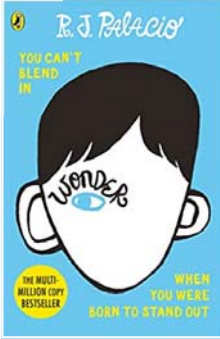
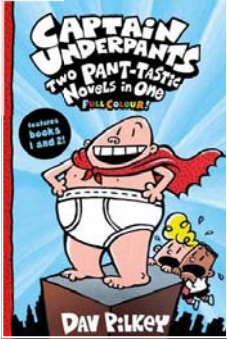
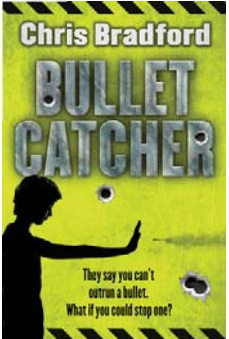

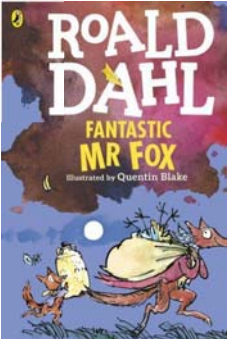
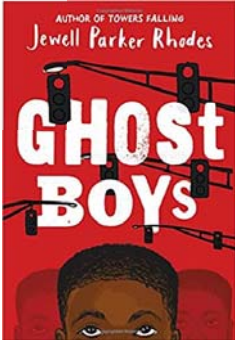

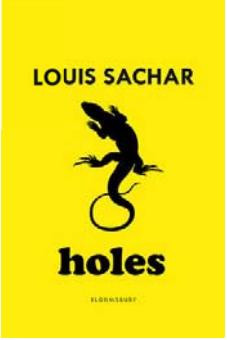
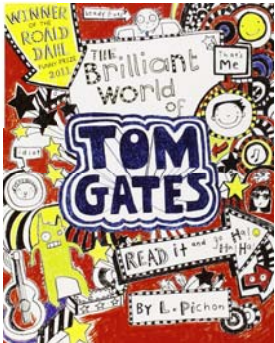
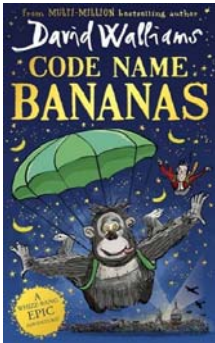
1. Book clubs
2. Reading buddies
3. Paired reading



Key findings

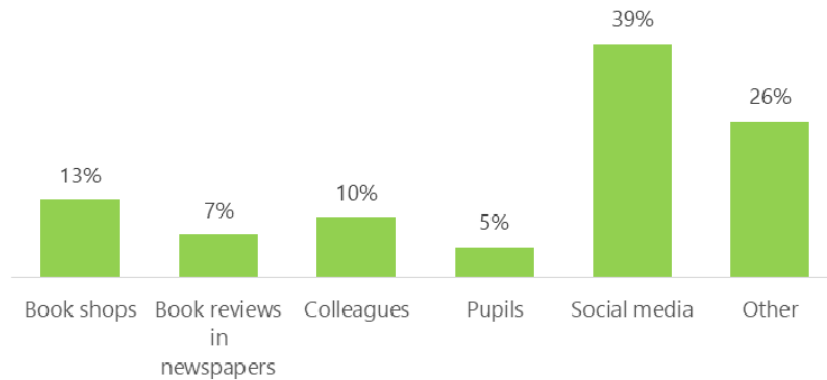
Top 10 Books to engage reluctant readers

Recommendations on books to engage reluctant readers are clearly age-dependent, and also dependent on the interests of each child. However, some titles are commonly suggested, and these are presented below in order of citations.

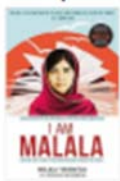



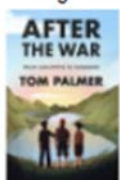
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The overwhelming majority of Headteachers, subject leaders, literacy coordinators, teachers and librarians who responded to our survey learn about new children's books releases from social media. In a separate question on the use of social media, 39% of respondents say they use Facebook and Twitter and 27% Facebook only. However, book shops and colleagues remain very powerful sources too.

Where do you get your understanding of the latest releases in children's books from?



Have you ever wondered what other schools are buying for their libraries? Take a look at www.laburnumhouse.co.uk/top-40 to see a list of the top 40 best-selling titles of 2021 so far...

<p>1</p> 	<p>I Am Malala</p> <p>For Malala, with the remarkable true story of a girl who knew she wanted to change the world – and did. Named in the Best Selling in Pakistan, Malala was taught to stand up for her beliefs, at...</p> <p>ATOG Book Level: 5.9 Points Level: 7.0</p> <p>was £3.99</p> <p>1 ADD TO BASKET</p>
<p>2</p> 	<p>The Night Bus Hero</p> <p>This boy's an absolute genius. He's a hero. A hero never? Why won't he be named the hero? For being getting the credit for an... being from... usually I don't mind 'em name of my hero, ...</p> <p>ATOG Book Level: 5.3 Points Level: 6.0</p> <p>was £3.50</p> <p>1 ADD TO BASKET</p>
<p>3</p> 	<p>The Mouse With Chicken Legs</p> <p>Martha dreams of a mouse, who has chicken legs, to one place being enough for her to make friends. But her house has chicken legs and means an without seeing her Martha's grandmother, Rosa V...</p> <p>ATOG Book Level: 5.0 Points Level: 6.0</p> <p>was £3.50</p> <p>1 ADD TO BASKET</p>
<p>4</p> 	<p>Ghost Boys</p> <p>This new one of my most anticipated 2018 books and I was not disappointed. A real read! - Angie Thomas, No. 1 New York Times bestselling author of The Hate U Give</p> <p>ATOG Book Level: 3.0 Points Level: 3.0</p> <p>was £3.50</p> <p>1 ADD TO BASKET</p>
<p>5</p> 	<p>After the War</p> <p>From the author of The Boy Who Swam to France</p> <p>ATOG Book Level: 4.0 Points Level: 4.0</p> <p>was £3.50</p> <p>1 ADD TO BASKET</p>





Accelerated Reader

Charlotte Colgan is Assistant Headteacher – Years 1 and 2 at Lyon Park Primary School, part of the Wembley Schools Federation, in west London. She joined the four-form entry school in September 2018 and leads on reading across all year groups spanning over 900 children.

In January 2019, Lyon Park was given an Ofsted requires improvement rating, highlighting that “pupils in all year groups are not making good enough progress in reading and writing” and that “not enough teaching is of good quality, particularly in reading and writing in key stages 1 and 2”. Inspectors also directed the school towards “ensuring that pupils have access to high-quality books that motivate

curriculum to enhance the learning opportunities and engagement in reading for all children. The relationship with Laburnum House Educational, which Charlotte also engaged in her role as English lead at her former school, has been a critical enabler of this new approach at Lyon Park.

“When I arrived at Lyon Park we had one library that was not well stocked in any way and this was flagged by Ofsted,” she explained. “Now we have two fully functioning libraries, which came about through my work with the school council. They helped to design and stock them as they sent out multiple surveys including book lists to gather pupil voice. This was important to supporting my aim to bring Accelerated Reader to the school. Creating a love of reading through Accelerated Reader has been a big focus and Laburnum House Educational, has helped that by supplying enough books to roll this out successfully.”

With Accelerated Reader, a pupil takes a computer-adaptive baseline assessment in STAR Reading, chooses their own appropriately levelled book from the library, and can complete a comprehension quiz when they have finished reading which they receive feedback on.

“Accelerated Reader combines that ability to give freedom of choice to the child with ensuring they are reading a book that is appropriate to them rather than just any banded book,” Charlotte said. “They are

“Creating a love of reading through Accelerated Reader has been a big focus and Laburnum House Educational has helped that by supplying enough books to roll this out successfully.”

them to read and stretch their comprehension skills”.

The visit came too early for the sustained impact and outcomes of “a range of new initiatives to improve the quality of teaching and learning” introduced by Charlotte and the new senior leadership team to be seen at that time. Two years on, however, and the school is on an upward trajectory with a new Reading Policy outlining a commitment to tailoring a



Accelerated Reader



getting books they want to read, and therefore they pick them up more. The assessment is brilliant too – half-termly STAR tests and comprehension quizzes, so they are thinking about what they are reading and remembering it, and this is especially important leading to Year 2 and Year 6 SATs. It has generated a genuine passion for reading, and our 100% club brings further motivation for the children.”

Laburnum House Educational has been providing fiction and non-fiction books to schools for over 25 years, and is a specialist in supporting schools which are running Accelerated Reader. Everything is half price, all Accelerated Reader books are pre-labelled with the quiz details

by a librarian, was exactly why I wanted to do so again.”

Having purchased “thousands of books” from Laburnum House Educational, Charlotte pinpointed the quality of customer experience as being particularly strong. “The service is excellent,” she explained. “I receive regular emails on what is new, but if ever I need something from them I call my contact directly and we receive a next-day delivery with an invoice. I know the quality of the texts, even the ones that may be lesser known to people, and they always have a list of what I have ordered in the past which is important as Laburnum House Educational tailor orders to the books that schools know they need for their pupils. The price is brilliant too – it is a massive driver when inevitably budgets are tight.”

Charlotte added: “Previously a lot of our children could not access books at home, and there was not enough library stock nor enough online access. Now every child can go into the library and take a book out, have responsibility for that book, and learn the importance of quizzing the text and maintaining ownership of their own progress in reading. I must thank Laburnum House Educational for their support in helping us to improve pupils’ outcomes, as evidenced by data, and in helping us to create a love of reading culture.”

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free of charge, and there is free delivery on all orders over £50.

“There is no other book supplier out there that highlights the readability range within which pupils should read to best develop their reading, prints the quiz labels, and understands what we need to do at our school,” Charlotte revealed. “My experience of using them before, having been recommended to them



About

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Everything is half price, all Accelerated Reader books are pre-labelled with the quiz details free of charge, and there is free delivery on all orders over £50. School can also build out a full set of resource materials with the provision of dictionaries, thesauruses and atlases.

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RENAISSANCE
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Partner



Laburnum House Educational

Caldicott Drive

Heapham Road Industrial Estate

Gainsborough

Lincolnshire

DN21 1FJ

01427 811109

info@laburnumhouse.co.uk

www.laburnumhouse.co.uk

@HouseLaburnum

