

# Professional Development resources help get 'sky high' results



School name:	St. Nicholas C of E Middle School	School type:	Middle deemed Primary (9-12 years)
Region:	Worcestershire	Ofsted rating:	Satisfactory (January 2008)
Area type:	Rural	Pupil premium %:	10.8%
Number of pupils:	317	EAL %:	1.3%

**Why Rapid?** St. Nicholas C of E Middle School had been using the printed Rapid reading books with their struggling readers for many years and were very happy with them. The school had some experience of using the old Rapid software, but three of the school's Special Needs Education Teaching Assistants were keen to explore the resources in more depth and learn how to help children get the most out of the Rapid reading sessions.

## Key points to take away

- **Comprehensive toolkit** helps teachers and assistants engage pupils to improve attainment.
- **Ongoing assessment** helps keep children progressing at the right level.
- **Rapid training** ensures teachers get the maximum benefits from the resources.
- **Confident teaching** accelerates pupil motivation and progress.

## Background

St. Nicholas school were given the opportunity to trial Rapid Reading online as part of a trial of several schools in Worcestershire and they jumped at the opportunity. Previous studies into the Rapid books and CD-ROM software had shown that, used consistently, Rapid Reading could significantly improve the children's rate of expected progress. The school felt they would appreciate the extra support of Rapid Professional Development to help them get to grips with how to use Rapid online effectively and really make a difference with their pupils.

## Stimulating lessons foster motivated and confident readers

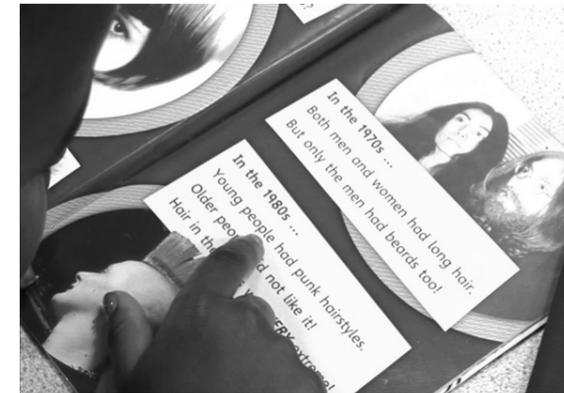
Having undertaken the two-day Rapid training, they all felt far more at ease with the technology, and began to further integrate it into their reading catch-up sessions. The training gave them the knowledge and confidence to use the Rapid printed books and eBooks using best practice, ensuring good progress for all their struggling readers.

Sally took on the mantle of Rapid Online champion, working with five children three times a week for 20 minutes. After seeing the difference it made she explains what happened:

"The results were amazing! Levels have gone sky high. We learned how to assess children at the end of each book using the quiz pages and we now do this in school to improve comprehension. We hadn't used Rapid online before, so it was useful to learn how to get the most out of the eBooks. One example of how this has worked is finding out about the recording activities. After using this feature, and listening to his own reading, one boy realised he sounded like a robot. It was a moment of realisation for him and afterwards he began to correct himself, and his reading has been better ever since."

“The results were amazing! Levels have gone sky high.”

"Doing the training together felt like a shared experience because we were able to support each other and share a real sense of achievement. Once we got past the fear of using the website, and the barrier of getting children set up, we realised that it wasn't difficult after all! I would recommend the training to other schools. It gives you a clearer view of how to use the books correctly and shows you the benefit of not cutting corners."



## The outcome – excellent teaching drives Rapid progress

After the training, all children made progress above what was expected and one made nearly five times the expected progress. All made more than double the expected progress in reading comprehension.



“I would recommend the training to other schools.”

## Rapid training supports teachers to do what they do best

The training was delivered by an Educational Consultant for Pearson who was delighted to see the teaching assistants grow in both confidence and excitement as the training progressed. "The training is great for breaking down those technical barriers, but that is just a small part of it. We look at areas such as best practice for shared reading and guided reading using the printed books and how to balance online and print. We also address how to get the best out of a one-to-one session with the teacher; for example, how to generate discussion about the book and how to teach the children to read with purpose. Training also gave them a good view of the child's experience so they were able to fully support children and parents."



## Find out more

To contact your local Pearson Primary representative email [primaryappointments@pearson.com](mailto:primaryappointments@pearson.com) or visit [pearsonprimary.co.uk/impact](http://pearsonprimary.co.uk/impact) to see more impact case studies.