

# Clifton Green Junior Librarian Case Study

We are a 320 pupil primary school in the city of York; the result of merging Kingsway Junior School and Shipton Street Infants in 2001. We have children from 4 to 11 years of age with a neighbourhood nursery attached and a children's centre is currently being built. We have a number of children from disadvantaged backgrounds that don't have easy access to books at home.

The library was converted from a classroom when roll numbers fell, but was criticized by Ofsted in 1997 as giving a dull, uninspiring view of books! It was a reference only library at this time. Since then, with the help of Junior Librarian, it first became a good library and now...in November 2005 Ofsted told the children of Clifton Green Primary they were lucky to have an excellent library. This has made us the school to look at for a primary library in the area!

We first discovered Junior Librarian in 1998- a fantastic system for our Acorn computers that automated stock control and kept a check on borrowing! Library progress never looked back! We have gone from "dull" to "wow" with Junior Librarian and lots of enthusiasm and support. In 2001 when we became a primary school, the new headteacher supported library development and the library manager (me) also became the deputy head. Our main school aim was to raise standards of achievement. Our passionate belief was that reading and access to books is a key entitlement for children and would help raise attainment. We wanted to make sure our children not

only had quality books at school but that they could all have books at home too!

The Acorns gave way to networked PCs and the Junior Librarian team helped us convert the system. The infant school books were assimilated, we threw out more antiques!...and the delight of providing for younger children led to more innovations in the library. A beautiful library counter, flat screen computers and a magnificent sailing boat browser made by our caretaker have added to the attractive surroundings. We also have identikit and Discovery. We have a dedicated computer and scanners in the reading room and main library and the catalogue can be accessed on the network from all classes.

Library improvement is ongoing and embedded in our school development. We now have a yearly programme with stocktakes, replacements, events and all classes have a weekly library lessons.

When we order new books we can download information from the booksellers that makes cataloguing quick. Pupil librarians, from year 5, run much of the day-to-day administration and we have appointed a teaching assistant librarian who has five hours dedicated weekly work in the library including running a library club. In the Summer of 2005 we evaluated the library using the DfES publication, Improving Your Library. The reports facility of Junior Librarian helped enormously in this process and we now have an action plan for the library. We use Read-it and have developed our own materials to make sure the library supports research skills. The Library is part of our current plan to use ICT more as a cross curricular teaching tool. Most of all the Library is at the heart of children's learning.

Jean Calverley, Deputy Headteacher  
Clifton Green Primary School

