

# Highwoods Primary School Junior Librarian Case Study

Highwoods Community Primary School is a rapidly expanding school with almost 400 pupils from Foundation to Year 6. It is in the middle of a mixed residential area and committed to the Eco-Schools initiative.

Highwoods Primary School had been using its library system for five years before a new Head brought his experience of Junior Librarian to the attention of the Literacy Co-ordinator.

Having struggled with a huge manual of 'simple procedures' for over a year, I was really interested in having a demonstration online during a staff meeting. The system looked simple enough, but we all know about 'simple', don't we?

However, that is exactly what we discovered when we decided to invest in the new Junior Librarian system. It arrived within days before the summer holiday and I'm afraid I put off installing it because I knew it would be difficult. I was wrong, because it was installed within an afternoon and even the difficulty we had with the SIMS software being on a different server was speedily resolved by a very patient and

competent Help Desk advisor who talked me through the problem. Everything was exactly as he described and within minutes I was ready to edit class lists and start scanning books onto the system. (This was really good fun!)

Since then I have been able to access loans records, send out reminder notices and watch the pupils check their own account. Needless to say they love the experience of scanning their thumbprint and it is a delight to see their faces when the system wishes them a 'Happy Birthday' on the right day!

On a more practical note, the school has a record of where every book, DVD, cd-rom and journal is and searching for the location of an item is a simple process. The system is so accessible to the children but quite safe for the administrator, with no fear of pupils accidentally deleting anything or changing the records.

Was it a good buy? Emphatically yes! I thoroughly recommend it to anyone wanting a (truly) simple system with the WOW factor to pull the most reluctant readers in.

Julie Rusieski  
Librarian

