

School Library Service Newsletter

for Primary schools

Summer 2009



- Headteacher Literacy Coordinator
 Librarian Staff Room

A key learning environment



original library at Stoke Hill Infants

Stoke Hill Infants' Library Refurbishment

Stoke Hill Infants in Exeter required shelving in their library that would appeal to, and inspire, younger pupils. The layout had to

be very visual, so the shelving in both these schools was custom made by a local craftsman. All the non-fiction books are shelved in a broad Dewey sequence but face-on to the user, with each section well labelled so that the pupils can find the subject they require. A storytelling area has been created by simply removing a sink unit and fitting in a Remploy Reading Corner.

similar shelving at Two Moors Primary, Tiverton



I have been meaning to contact you for ages to say how delighted we are with our 'new' library. The children use it with ease; even the Nursery children use it most effectively now that the shelves have pictures to guide them.

Kate Tucker, Two Moors Primary



In the library I like the books because I like the fiction books and the non-fiction books because they give me some ideas for making books. Sungleen

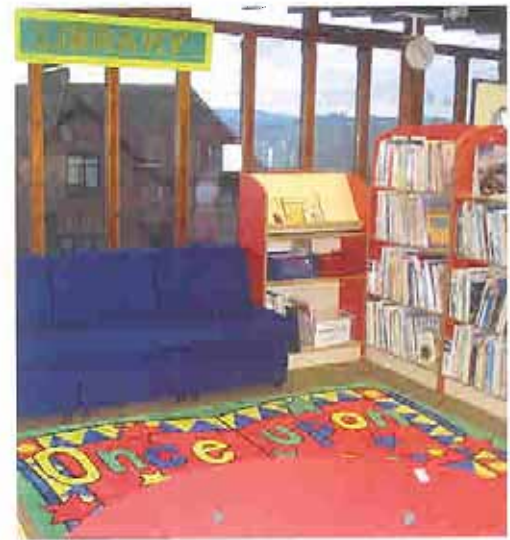


These are things I like about the library - books, friends, dusting, tidying up the library, pictures on the windows. Grace

At the library we tidy up and read and dust. It is fun because they teach me nice things and it helps me learn about friendship. Charlotte

Getting it right

School libraries need to be a key learning environment within the school. They give pupils the opportunity to extend their reading experiences, discover and use information and learn and practise research skills.



Christow Primary – using natural light



Clyst Heath Primary – reading corner and low base spinner

Good school libraries:

- enrich pupils' reading experiences
- develop pupils' skills as independent learners
- provide resources for both teachers and pupils
- support the teaching process and extend the school's curriculum
- have up-to-date, attractive and suitable resources
- are planned to be pleasant and stimulating environments
- are located centrally, with easy access from all classrooms and on the ground floor

Ilington Primary – compact and bijoux

Furniture and fittings should reflect the age range and abilities of the whole school.

Items that should be included are:

- shelving or low base spinner for early or series reads
- shelving for non-fiction
- Kinderboxes for picture books
- High base spinner for paperback fiction
- large rugs and/or large floor cushions
- small chairs and a low table
- chairs for adults





Kings Ash Primary – blue fiction area



Thurlestone Primary – red fiction area

- Colour is important in the library, to make it bright, welcoming and stimulating. Curtains, blinds, carpets and shelving can add to the colour scheme and a combination of two main colours in various tones will lend maximum impact.
- To create display space in the library, all the shelving should have canopies on the top of each bay to display books and artefacts. Hessian boards above the shelving provide good space to display posters, pupils' work and information, at a height that pupils can read.
- The library should be well lit, with as much natural lighting as possible,
- Blinds or tinted glass at the windows may be required to reduce glare and heat, especially if the windows face south.
- An adequate ventilation system is required for the comfort of the users as well as the preservation of the bookstock. If the library gets too hot books will yellow and deteriorate more quickly (and children and staff will!)
- The floor should be carpeted to reduce noise and to increase comfort.

Safety tips:

- DIY shelving is not recommended (it has a tendency to warp and buckle).
- Shelves should be of 'library' quality, strong enough to take the weight of the books and of appropriate height, length and width.
- Shelves should not have sharp edges.
- Soft furnishings must be flame-resistant, ideally with removable covers.
- Mobile shelving must have lockable castors to prevent accidents.



**Yeo Valley Primary
– non-fiction area**

SLS Library Planning and Design

School Library Service Advisers can provide your school with ideas for new libraries, library extensions and refurbishments. They will visit your school, with a tape, paper and pencil, take measurements, write down your requirements or wish lists and try to find a solution. SLS will provide a sketch plan of the idea, with shelving and other items of furniture marked on the plan, as well as providing catalogues and information on the products they are recommending, a list of the suppliers and a rough price guide. The school can then contact the suppliers and ask for quotes as well as asking the selected supplier to come to the school to provide a measured estimate before placing the order. SLS staff have knowledge of what works and what doesn't in schools, what looks good and what is good value, and are very willing to share that information. Money is often a problem and questions asked are: is there money to alter the building/walls? Is there a budget for the shelving, or is the current shelving to be used? Nothing is insurmountable and often a fresh pair of eyes and a move around of the furniture can achieve an amazing change, not only in the look of the library but also the way in which it is used, by the pupils, in both primary and secondary schools.

Topic collections

Please email or send in your topic requests as soon as possible before the end of term. SLS can accept requests for the whole year ahead. Exeter and Barnstaple Centres will be collecting topics from schools from July 1st, so that stock can be computerised and topics catalogued before being sent out in September 2009. Topics can be renewed if you want to keep them longer.

Reviews

LEWIS, Jill **Don't read this book!**

An action packed tale about a king and his storyteller searching for a missing story. As he makes his way through Storyland some very familiar faces appear to help him on his way. Quirky and lively this story provides a twist on the traditional fairy tale. KS1

Recommended website

www.claricebean.com

Screensavers, quizzes and all sorts of fun featuring Clarice Bean and all in Lauren Child's distinctive style.

Devon Learning and Development Partnership (LDP)

You may have noticed the new logo on the front page, to show that School Library Service is now part of the Devon Learning and Development Partnership (LDP) which was formed in April 2009 and brings together eleven Devon County Council services. The purpose of LDP is to work with others to improve outcomes for young people.

LDP comprises: Devon Discovery, Devon Education Services (including Governor Support), Devon Learning Resources, Devon Music Service, Educational Psychology Service, Education Welfare Service, English as an Additional Language Service, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement, Inclusion Reintegration and Education other than at School, School Library Service, Support and Advisory Teacher Service.

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