

## Adderley Primary School Citation



[www.adderleyprimary.co.uk](http://www.adderleyprimary.co.uk)

Adderley Primary school is a large primary school just a mile from the centre of Birmingham. The school sprawls across old Victorian buildings with later additions, but throughout books are evident. From the Hobbit House on the edge of the Forest School, to walls covered with attractive professionally painted book related pictures or quotations, books surround the children.

This is a very child-led school with pupils leading initiatives, although the staff also have ideas that are picked up so the school works together.

Previously in two separate KS1/KS2 book areas with bit of shelving, the school library is now in a wide thoroughfare corridor, wrapping around a corner, and has a set of stairs with book spines painted on leading off it. Corridor libraries have pros and cons, but this one works. There is so much to look at on the walls and the shelving itself, so as a pupil using the space to walk through, you can't help but become interested in what is happening around. The fact that these displays change regularly is also a pro to keep children interested. It has improved behaviour, as knowing they are passing through the library mean children respect the space.

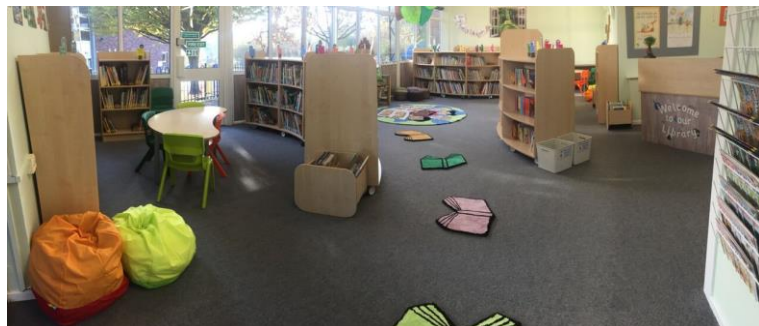
Pupils commented that they like the library as it has lots of books, the paintings inspire them to read particular books and authors, they all liked the fact that the library changes regularly. One liked the multicoloured lights, one pupil mentioned liking SLS books as they changed. One pupil said she was inspired to become a librarian when she was older.

The reading culture in school spreads out from the library. An outdoor library/reading space is manned by the Reading Manager at break. Author visits from Authors Aloud are preceded by preparing the children for the visit beforehand. Reading Clubs take place three afternoons after school. There are many library competitions, an author of the term, WBD activities include sharing books with parents in the library. The school buys into Birmingham Rep Theatre to come weekly into school and lead workshops. Classes read a book, then rehearse a performance of that book. This has boosted the confidence of children in more areas than just reading. Children from reception to Year 6 are taken to Shakespeare festival performances. The school also has a school radio station which broadcasts programmes including audio books.

Information literacy is not neglected as Dewey activities take place in library lessons.

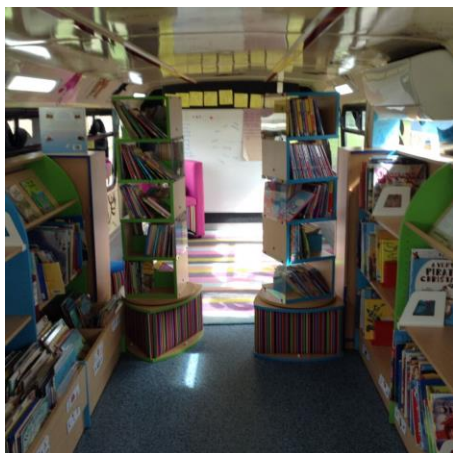
On our visit staff repeated the phrase 'The school is the library' and this immersion in books is the reason Adderley has reached the Inspiration Award shortlist.

### **Charford First School Citation**



Charford First School is a delightfully busy, engaging and caring larger than average first school serving the needs of children aged from 2 years to Year 4 pupils. In November 2016 it opened its brand new exciting library. Centrally located, combining a library from an atrium and also another from the school entrance foyer, it is now the focal point in the school for reading, books, storytelling and general relaxation and enjoyment of the written and spoken word. In the words of the Head Teacher *'we cleared and adapted a classroom especially for this, including some building work, new entrance doors, newly painted walls in calming colours and a new carpet'*. Entering under its colourful tree canopy you are drawn into the woodland themed library – a magical, cosy and inviting space with tailor made curved light wood shelving supplemented with more from Willowbrook Furnishing, with a purpose made arch linking some of the shelving, an eye catching storytelling chair, some tables and chairs, beanbags, lots of soft furnishing, mats and attractive curtains. Wood has also been used for book ends and label holders. The school site manager clearly has useful D.I.Y skills. He also made the issue desk. The library is big enough for flexible whole class use, yet small and comfortable enough for small group and 1 to 1 work too. The children are very proud of their new library and there is some real book enjoyment going on there. The library is busy throughout the school day – exchanging books, information seeking and each class has a 30+ mins lesson in this space every week. There is an enthusiastic band of children helpers and some effective staffing - *'our librarian and assistant librarian are in the library throughout the day, ensuring books are returned to the right place, stamping and labelling new and donated books and providing assistance to anyone who needs it'* stated the nomination form. The school puts on workshops for the parents to encourage use of the library and reading in general and of course the children themselves are encouraged to come along to the library for various and varied activities – the Y2 Challenge 5 Library Club on a Monday lunchtime which promotes and develops information seeking in various ways and others, using pupil premium funding, come along for the Book Munchers Club, there are also regular reading competitions, a recent one has involved taking selfies ! This is a lovely library for a first school and congratulations to Jackie Strange who runs the library and the Head Teacher Anita McLaren for their work so far. It will be interesting to hear of the next stage in its development.

## New Milton Infants School Citation



New Milton Infants School is a lively, energetic and very much child centred infants' school of approx. 280 children aged 4 – 7. They have a shiny red, wonderfully illustrated, double decker bus as their new school library and everybody knows it ! It proudly sits in the school playground and we judges thought it excellent and clearly the children and staff do too ! A few other schools have done it so why not New Milton was the thought of Kate Stanton the Head Teacher. With space at a premium, a drive to promote reading across the school starting , a new library was clearly needed (and a space for support work too) so a redundant double decker bus was just the solution. The staff loved the idea. Driven onto the school site, decommissioned and put in its current resting place over two years ago now, Kate and her team quickly set to work on their new asset - planning and creating their new school library. *'We designed every inch of the refurbished interior ourselves and sourced the bright striped materials and furniture to give us the vibrant child-friendly library we wanted'*. With a constant stream of ideas and support from all around them, advice from Hampshire Schools Library Service, with In Cube shelving – fiction books on the top deck with room for class and group activities and information books on the lower deck, Kate, Mary, Caroline and the other staff, parents, governors and volunteers set about creating an exciting space for reading, storytelling and general book activities. Completed within 11 months, the children were constantly updated on its progress and invited to contribute ideas to the design and the eye catching illustrations of book characters, quotes etc on the exterior.

With the added bonus of access to Wi-Fi the children can use iPads and laptops over there . A library management system has also been installed, soon to be self-service. Kate told us that the bus had made a real difference to reading interest and levels in the school, becoming a talking point in the community and a selling point for prospective parents and staff. The children with whom we spoke obviously love it too and feel energised by using it, not only in their regular weekly class times but also before and after school every day of the week. It also features nicely on the school website. Without doubt it has been a brilliant piece of work and will continue to interest and inspire the school and its children in books, reading and the school libraries for a long time to come.