

Report on the Canterbury Award

In the past at Churchill CE Primary School each class has had its own library, a form of organisation which the teaching staff agreed did not work very well for the range of children. They have therefore decided to have a central library, and it is to help with that that I applied for the Canterbury award.

The staff had a good discussion concerning in which area of the library they would like to enhance the stock first. Even a very generous award such as this will disappear quickly when purchasing books, so they felt it was important to know the area they were going to focus on. They have decided to look at diversity, as this is an area where they are focusing as a school on trying to improve their provision and an area which they hope children will wish to develop their understanding once Covid allows the library to be back in full use. They will be looking at a mix of informative fiction and non-fiction, with a bias towards non-fiction where possible, exploring other cultures, different types of families, different races, different religions etc.

They have managed to repurpose a computer from another part of the school which wasn't sufficient for its original purpose, but is quite happy running the library software, which doesn't require much power or memory. Not needing to replace this will hopefully free up some budget to supplement the grant, enabling them to decide on the next area of focus and buy in some more stock.

The Head was planning to visit Bluewater to go to Waterstones and browse for good quality books. She may buy at least some of them elsewhere, as sometimes online stores are better value, but she thinks it is important to see books in the flesh.

Kate York (Gamma Chapter)