

# Congratulations, Lucy Bakewell – School Librarian of the Year 2009!



Photo: SLA/Philip Paul Photography

Congratulations to Voice member Lucy Bakewell, of Hill West Primary School in Sutton Coldfield, who was announced as the School Library Association's School Librarian of the Year 2009 in an award ceremony in October. She was presented with her award by author Anne Cassidy.

Ginette Doyle, Chair of the judging panel, said: 'Primary schools are vital in inspiring children to read and reading is so important in the development of children, expanding their imagination, their knowledge, their vocabulary. They also are the places where children begin to learn to learn, where information skills are first taught, creating individuals competent in finding information.'

'Few primary schools can afford to have a librarian and many rely on dedicated individuals, such as Lucy to run their libraries. Lucy inspires her pupils to love books and reading and she inspires the adults around her.'

'Hill West School is an example of a marvellous school where reading and books are central to learning, much of which is down to Lucy.'

We feel that it is really important to raise the profile of good primary school library practice, to demonstrate that with the right person in place wonderful things can be achieved.'

In her acceptance speech, Lucy said: 'I am ecstatic and honoured to be given this award for something I love doing. I have the best job in the world and it's a joy to spend time in the library.'

'I feel passionate about making the library a space that children feel is their own and am delighted to receive the honour for the children and for the school. It is exceptionally important that a primary school has won for the first time. It is vital to enthuse and engage children in books and reading from an early age.'

The four finalists were chosen for their outstanding work in their school library from a pool of candidates nominated by their colleagues.

## School Librarian of the Year Award

The School Library Association (SLA) created the Award in 2004 'in response to the need for recognition of the excellent work that is carried out in school libraries every day, and to highlight best practice through celebrating those whose work is outstanding'. Nominees do not need to be members of the SLA, and may be from any phase of education. Nominations for 2010 close on 15 January.