

Before You Read This Book, Know Four Things ...

Firstly, I like telling stories. I tell a number of stories in this book, some of which you might like to use in assemblies with your pupils. That would make me smile. They are – I should add – tried and tested with primary aged children; OFSTED even sat in on them. The inspectors said they liked them, which is always a good sign!

Secondly – headship is a highly personalised game. I make no grand claims about this book. It is a collection of personal views assembled through my own particular experiences. Experienced colleagues will no doubt disagree with many of the viewpoints contained within. This book is not for them; they will know it all already and much more besides. I wrote it because when my deputy was promoted to headship, I wanted to buy him a simple practical little guide about leading a primary school for the very first time. Try as I might, I could not find one entitled, ‘My First Headship’ – so here is my humble attempt to fill a perceived gap in the market.

Thirdly, growing up I wanted to join the circus. Yes, really. I never made it. Being a head teacher has perhaps been the next best thing! There are some circus analogies in the book, which are signposted with this motif.



Finally, most primary schools are rated ‘good’ by OFSTED. This book tries to show you some of the ways you might set about taking such schools to outstanding status.

I have put these in **BOLD** in borders like this.