

## **Headteacher of the Year awards**

We were delighted to learn that Steve Hudson, HeadTeacher at Crestwood Park Primary School, has been awarded the coveted title of “Headteacher of the Year in a Primary School in the West Midlands” and goes forward to the National Final in the Autumn. These awards were introduced a few years ago to raise the profile of high-performing teachers, and it is refreshing to see that a headteacher colleague of ours has been honoured in this way. Of course we are well aware that Steve is not the only local Head who has achieved “miracles” in their school – so many do really excellent and outstanding work, but nevertheless we do congratulate Steve on his achievement and wish him every success in the National Finals. We reproduce below the citation from the NCSL (National College for School Leadership) judges:-

### **Mr Stephen Hudson**

#### **Teaching Awards 2009 Winner**

##### **The NCSL Award for Headteacher of the Year in a Primary School in West Midlands**

##### **Crestwood Park Primary School, KINGSWINFORD**

When Stephen Hudson took over as head of Crestwood Park Primary five years ago, the school seemed to be stuck in a 1970s time-warp. The buildings were drab and neglected but worse still, the school was in special measures after a disappointing inspection.

Stephen immediately set about putting things right. He began a rigorous recruitment process, attracting the right staff into key roles to move the school forward. He then led demoralised staff through the strategies needed to raise standards, giving them responsibilities to build on their strengths, and offering training where necessary.

The buildings were transformed, initially through ‘painting parties’ with parents giving of their time to freshen up the school while clutter gathered over many years was removed in skips. This ‘spring clean’ led to a fight for funding to replace dilapidated mobile classrooms with new buildings, which the pupils moved into nearly two years ago.

One of Stephen’s early priorities was the foundation stage, and responding to parental need, so “Poppyfields” was opened, offering extended services and wrap-around care. Stephen meets regularly with class teachers in every key stage to discuss the progress of every child. He particularly tries to help those with challenging home circumstances, being actively involved with outside agencies to find support not only for the children but their families.

Stephen believes no-one can be a successful head unless they do everyone else’s job if required. So he has been known to roll up his sleeves and help serve school lunches, move furniture around and coach school sports teams.

The school was taken out of special measures in April 2005 and a year later was recognised by the local authority as the most improved school in the area. Last summer, more than half of pupils at key stage 2 achieved Level 5 in English, maths and science.

Parents and pupils are thrilled with the impact he has made. One pupil said: “Mr Hudson works his socks off every single day”, while a parent added: “We are proud to say our children go to Crestwood Park. It is a happy place to be.”

Judges said Stephen has “totally transformed” the school into “a light, spacious, stimulating and exciting place for children to learn.”

Steve was nominated for the award by a pupil at the school and we are quite sure that he would not object to the observation that his appointment was the result of the inspired judgement of the Governing Body at the school and that his actions were fully discussed with, and backed by, them.

However he thoroughly deserves the credit for his outstanding example.