**Q: *(from a Library Officer)  re Library Monitors***

**I would like to initiate a library monitor program this year.** I don't have a lot of ideas as to how I start this. Does anyone have any ideas that I can use? I propose to offer it to yrs. 5,6,7 and try to get them to help, promote and enthuse other students. Will this work? or is is a waste of time? Having no TL I am finding the role of the library has gone down to the bottom of the schools priorities and I would like to get it moving.

**ANSWER: *(suggestions at a glance)***

If you are allowed to exercise Duty of Care-

I use my monitors in a leadership role as well. I work with them towards taking on other roles in the school.

1. They sit at the desk and answer questions and help other boys by showing them where to find something.
2. They are allowed to loan books to boys during lunchtime, but no returns.
3. They shelve picture books (which I shelve by one letter only, not alphabetically within the number)
4. They cut pieces of paper for the Inquiry terminals and sharpen pencils.
5. They do all manner of things to help- including counting house points, counting for the Top Ten Book survey and display bits.
6. They ring the bell at the end of lunchtime and clean up.

There are always two or even three boys on at one time and I match them to other boys they will work well with. I have a point system and award a prize at the end of the term to the winner. Record points each week and bonus points if boys stand in for others when sick etc.

I also hold a morning tea for the Library Monitors at the end of each term- bring in a cake and a lolly each and maybe a drink. They love it. Have a list on the library door and have more lines than needed.This encourages them to get to the door quickly. Then choose your best 10 or however many you need and try to give new ch'n a turn each term, but keep a couple of experienced ones that are really responsible.  Print a list of their possible jobs and the competition and leave it on the Circulation Desk after you have explained everything. It's important to talk to the monitors and encourage them each time they're in the library.

Have an announcement in Assembly and maybe even announce the winner of the competition each term. This will certainly lift the interest and profile of the library over a couple of terms.

Hope this helps.

Mary Hookey