

Nits and Other Afflictions by Norman Burslem

5 stars

A look behind the scenes at the life of a headmaster of a primary school

Bradley Hawkins is the head teacher at Kilchester Primary School. He has to deal with angry parents, leaks in the bathrooms that were built in the Edwardian era, inspection reports from Ofsted that require improvement in two areas: the standard of boys writing and below-average teaching effectiveness in some year groups, middle of the night break-ins, over-bearing members of the board of governors and now pediculosis! The scientific term for head lice is pediculosis and Bradley uses this term in his letter to the parents in order not to create havoc, little realising just how much havoc it will create. Making his life more difficult is the fact that one of the teachers found to be below average is his wife, Susan, who works at the school part-time.

Bradley and his wife live next door to Trixie Smith, a sultry stay-at-home vixen whose husband is often away working and who has a degree in English. Trixie offers to help Bradley scrutinise the grade 6 exercise books for how accurately the pupils spell, use punctuation and paragraphs and she would actually like to scrutinise Bradley in a bit more detail too!

I thoroughly enjoyed the book being a teacher myself and I now have new-found respect for our headmaster. It is written in a light-hearted style and makes you chuckle at times at the situations poor Bradley finds himself in. It looks like it must be very difficult to try and plan your day if you are a head teacher because you never know who or what is going to make an appearance on any given day! It also cannot be easy trying to keep everyone happy and dealing with people who are filled with their own self-importance. After reading this book I had to thank the heavens that I am a mere subject teacher and not the head teacher.

Saphira

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review