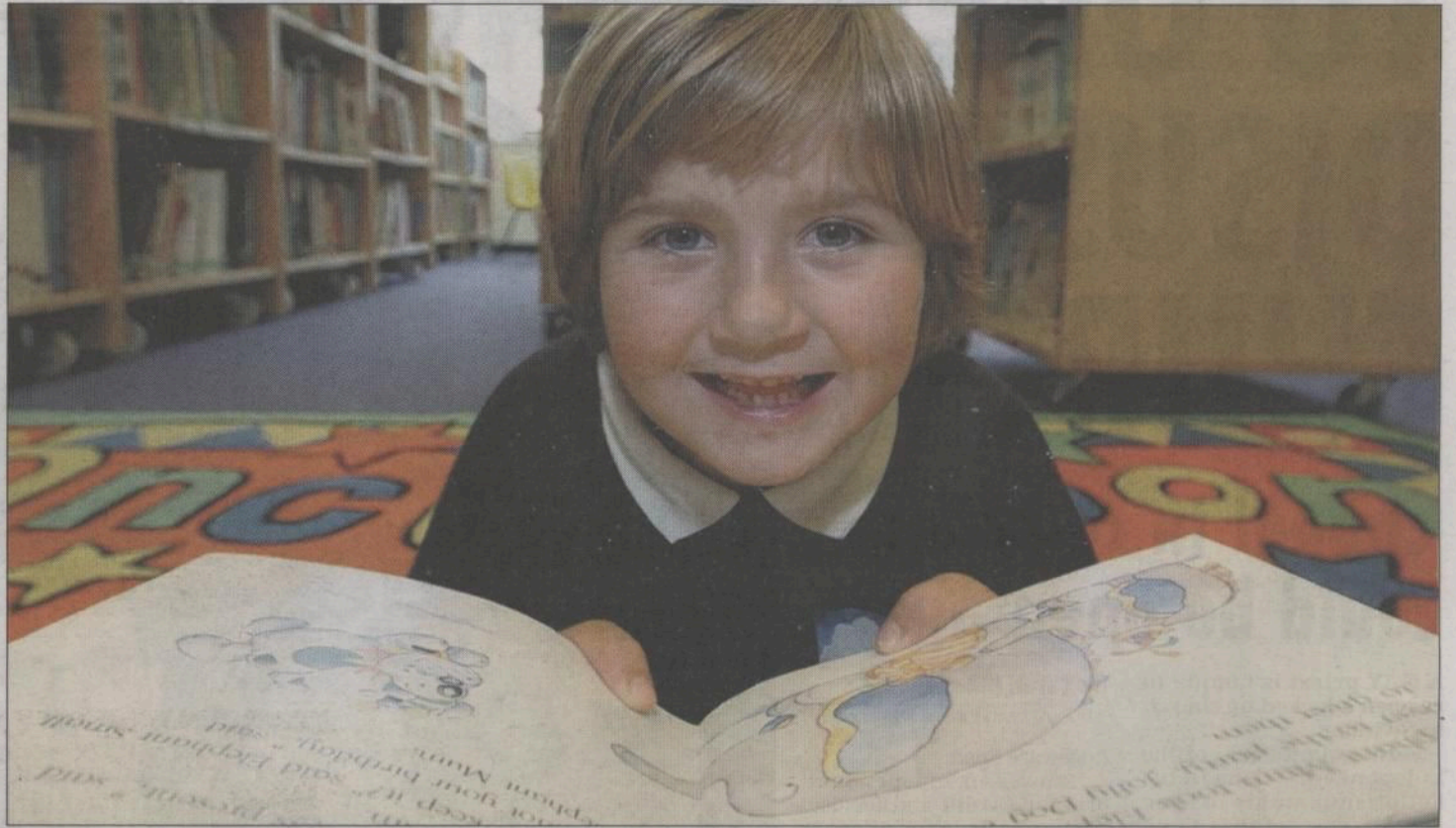


Staff and children delighted with their new premises

LIBRARY OPENS NEW CHAPTER FOR SCHOOL



HEAD IN A BOOK Tiffany Priest reading in the new library at the former Penhill Primary School, now part of the academy. Below, Mandy Sturman cuts the ribbon
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by Sarah Hilley
 Education reporter

shilley@swindonadvertiser.co.uk

A NEW £2m school library has been officially opened to the delight of pupils.

The library at the former Penhill Primary School – which has been absorbed by Swindon Academy – has had new windows installed.

The 50-year-old Alton Close school is set to have seven classrooms with conservatories and a two-storey extension when building work is completed in April.

Site head Mandy Sturman said: "The building work has made a huge difference. The building has stopped leaking for a start. The children are very impressed and say it is posh and ask if it is really for them."

On Friday, children and teachers officially declared the new library open.



Mrs Sturman cut a red ribbon to the cheers of children and Swindon Academy headteacher Jan Shadick.

"For the first time we can have all our books in the one place," said Mrs Sturman.

"It is really exciting being part of the academy. I think the fact that doors lead outside will

encourage children to read during break.

"Things are really moving forward and the community is realising the academy is serious about raising standards.

"The work on the building is a symbol of that."

There was concern when the idea of merging Penhill

Primary with the academy was first suggested.

Swindon Council received 215 letters objecting to the school's merger with the academy last year but cabinet members voted unanimously to accept the amalgamation.

The primary school joined Headlands School and Pinehurst Infant and Juniors to become part of Swindon Academy in January.

Eight-year-old Christian Jacobs was delighted with his school's new library.

He said: "It is brilliant because it has lots of fun stuff and books and helps me learn words better. I am on the highest reading level."

Ms Shadick said: "I am delighted the Alton Close site is part of the academy. It is about time they have received a building, which represents what they need. For a long time it was below standard."