

RICHARD O'NEILL
AUTHOR-STORYTELLER
NATIONAL LITERACY HERO (UK)
AESOP AWARDEE (USA)
ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE AWARDEE (UK)

25th January, 2022

Mrs B Pawson
Headteacher
Sand Hutton and Warthill Federation

Dear Mrs Pawson,

It was an absolute pleasure to visit your schools today to and work with all the children and staff. It's very easy for people to say that they value diversity and inclusion without actually practicing it, it's very clear that you do the latter in your schools. I say this as a Romani Gypsy person who felt totally comfortable talking about my heritage and ethnicity, which isn't always the case unfortunately even in education.

There was such a desire for learning more about my books and the stories and ideas and writing process, some very insightful questions too.

It's clear there is a real Christian ethos of welcoming, of kindness and caring within the schools one that you feel when you walk in and experience as you work.

Please pass on my thanks to children and staff for such a wonderful visit.

Very best wishes

Richard

Richard R O'Neill Bury Lancashire