

Camberley Infant, Bristow Infant & Watchetts Junior School Gifted & Talented Event



Organisation

Camberley Infant & Nursery School,
Bristow Infant & Nursery School, Watchetts
Junior School, Surrey Heath Confederation
of Schools

Target Group(s)

Gifted and Talented children in Years 1,
2 and 3.

Context

The event was primarily aimed at developing children's social skills, assisting the transition process and engaging children and parents in learning opportunities.

Action planned

There were 24 children from Watchetts (Y3) and 18 each from Bristow and Camberley Infant (Y 1 and 2), plus a number of Y5 and Y6 children who helped supervise and assist the younger participants. The afternoon was split into two parts; part one only children attending, part two (after refreshments) parents and school governors were invited to join to see the teams in action.

The children were organised into mixed school, mixed age teams – each with a team name and a colour. The teams then rotated round eight different activities. The challenges varied in focus, for example, maths or science, but all required problem solving techniques and a team approach. Some of the activities are already used in school, some were new. All the activities had been 'tested' on Y3 pupils prior to the event to ensure that instructions were easy to follow and the challenge was achievable in the time allowed. Each team had a number of 'help tokens' that they could redeem in return for assistance. At the end of the event a total team score was recorded based on how many tokens had been used and the winning team was announced.

Outcomes and Impact

- The children in Years 1, 2 and 3 said that they had really enjoyed the event, particularly working with older children and children from other schools.
- Although some children had been initially shy and reluctant to participate there was soon a keen competition between teams and people were working well together to solve the challenges.
- The more challenges they completed the more focused the teams became!
- The event taught and reinforced many important independent skills such as perseverance, patience, taking responsibility, listening and following instructions accurately as well as the social skills required for team working.
- Children relished the opportunity to show their parents what they could do!
- Relationship building between schools.
- Y5 and Y6 children thrived on the responsibility of guiding the team at their challenge table, promoting them with clues and judging their team working skills
- Relationship building with new parents and showcasing standard of learning and teaching at all schools. Parents reported being particularly impressed with the progress their Y3 children had made with problem solving since being at Watchetts.
- Governors were able to interact with parents in an informal environment.

To bridge together the unique qualities of each educational setting within the confederation to the greater benefit of the wider community and the individuals within it



Next Steps

Project coordinators from the three schools agreed that they would repeat the project with a few small changes to the organization and logistics. They would potentially run it earlier in the school year, perhaps spring term or as early as the autumn term for Y3 and Y4 participants. The event would also be opened up to Pine Ridge Infant school as an aid to transition as some of their pupils feed into the Watchetts Junior School. A pupil questionnaire would be completed after any future event.

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