

SCHOOL NEWS: WORKING IT OUT AND DISNEY DELIGHTS

Our contributions this month come from the oldest and newest members of the school, but have a common theme of 'getting along together'.

We spend valuable time at the start of term establishing the 'ground rules' for how to work and play together co-operatively. It's always exciting to see how our youngest children, guided by staff, swiftly absorb the logic and fairness of this. Miss Lamb used role play and circle time activities before working with the children to take digital pictures showing each rule in action.



Here are some of the comments about which rules are important and why:

I think putting your hand up. If you don't Miss Lamb can't work out what we are trying to say. (Jonathan, aged 5)

No running is important because you might trip. (Jessica, aged 4)

No fighting – or you will get hurt. (James, aged 4)

Sit still on the carpet because then you know what to do. (Thomas, aged 5).

Meanwhile, many members of Denman Class have been behaving themselves under the extreme pressures of excitement at the 2004 Disney Awards, as we were once again invited to attend. Here is a report by George Newman (Year 5):

We went to Disney Channel Awards. We went on a bus to get there. We had dinner on the bus. When we got there lots of limos lined up. We couldn't see who was inside them. I saw Mickey Mouse and Dick and Dom. Peter Andre and Jordan and Harvey were sitting next to us. Mrs Johnson got his autograph.

There was lots of screaming and singing. There were lots of fireworks. They were hot and colourful. I had an excellent time and I would like to go again.



Finally, here are a few quotes from Year 6:

It was amazing seeing Peter Andre in real life – and so close. I've seen him hundreds of times in magazines but I never thought I'd get to see the real him! (Jamie Coates)

It was a fabulous experience. I liked it when Dick and Dom got 'gunged'. (Zoe Walton)

The lights and fireworks were spectacular, especially the green and orange flames all around Girls Aloud. We all got colourful curly wigs too. (Georgia Tolley)

The children were a credit to our school, revelling in the fun and excitement of the evening, and also benefiting from sharing the thrills with Year 6 children from Dry Sandford School. We look forward to offering many memorable events to all our children over the coming year.

LESLEY CLARK



"When I first knew it was dementia I didn't know anything about what it was or what it meant. As a carer you need support, respite and practical help, but you also need the right information."

It is estimated that there are over 8,000 people over the age of 65 with dementia living in Oxfordshire. The majority of these people are being cared for by their spouse, family, friends or relatives. Many carers struggle on alone without the help and support that could make their lives easier and their caring role more tolerable. DISC, The Dementia Information Service for Carers is a new project which provides an information service to carers of older people with dementia. The service has been developed by The Guideposts Trust and the Institute of Public Care and is supported by the Community Fund. The Oxfordshire project is a prototype which will eventually be broadened to cover the majority of the south east of England.

DISC provides a professional, personal, friendly and easily accessible information service to carers. It offers basic information about dementia, legal rights, what care services are available and how to get help. It signposts carers to agencies that can support them particularly during times of difficulty such as before and after the person they care for has moved into a care home. If people wish to have help in contacting health or care organisations then DISC can provide this. Advice and information is available by telephone, e-mail, letter or through the DISC website.

DISC also offers help to carers via two indirect means: providing an information service to care homes that wish to improve their contact and support to relatives of people with dementia, and a consultancy service to health and social care organisations to help those organisations find out what carers think of the services they receive. Contact DISC by phoning 0845 120 4048, writing to DISC, Oxford Dementia Centre, Institute of Public Care, Roosevelt Drive, Oxford, OX3 7XR, logging on to www.disc.org.uk or sending an e-mail to info@disc.org.uk.