

Parish council visit to Bridgerule C of E Primary School

Councillors Ken 1 and Ken 2, as named by the children, accepted the kind invitation to the parish council to visit the primary school. We were welcomed by Mrs Sue Bowden and introduced to the headteacher Mr Matthew Barnes and met the class of Mrs Marion Balsdon and her assistant Mrs J Crocker.

We were shown round the school by Mrs Balsdon's class who were very proud indeed of their school. We were delighted to be shown even the lovely if small staff room. What was truly amazing though was the blackboard which needed no chalk to write on it. This is TRUE!!! It was a magic board and Ken 2 was invited by the children to try and write his name with a pencil with no ink. But it was not really a pencil at all. By magic Ken 2 wrote his name on this large white board. And then with a duster could rub it off again. There was no chalk dust. The children were very comfortable with using this magic board. They told Ken 1 and Ken 2 that they could even get a lesson on this board from a teacher in another school. This was hard to believe. But then they told the Kens that they could see and talk to pupils in another school. The two Kens were not sure if this was simply the good imaginations of the children, but the children were very convincing.

Then the hardest part of the visit came. The children had prepared very difficult questions for the Kens, and the Kens were split up and then each child in turn asked a difficult question. At first the child lulled each Ken into a false sense of relaxation as the first questions were not that hard. We were asked if we enjoyed being Councillors. Ken 2 thought the best bit of being a parish Councillor was getting letters addressed to 'Cllr Ken' instead of simply 'Ken' but the other good bits were about trying to do the best for the community.

But the children asked serious questions about what the parish council did and what the parish plan was all about. The children already knew a lot about Bridgerule which impressed the two Kens. What was impressive was a question about advice on a school council. Thankfully the difficult questions came to an end and the two Kens were rewarded with a lovely cup of tea and a biscuit.

However there were more impressive things to come. The Kens were shown the ICT room which had lots of computer screens. The children then demonstrated their own movies – yes movies – about the space race. Each movie was different and made by different children with their own voices as voice overs. The children had taken pictures from the internet to put their movies together. The movies even had credits at the end like real movies. This is TRUE!! The children had learned a lot about the space race.

What amazed the two kens though was how easily the children used the internet and computer keyboards and mouse. They showed games that were really lessons about maths and learning to tell the time.

Overall what was amazing was the enthusiasm of the children to learn and to work together. They were all very articulate. Ken 1 and Ken 2 left wondering how nice it would have been when they were at school to have had such wonderful teachers and such a friendly classmates. THE
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