



Smiz Kid¹ New¹

Smiz Kids 511 Newsletter

Autumn 2005

Caged at Snibston!



kept the children's attention for a whole hour and they hung on his every word. He even managed to make Lizzie shout when he banged a stick of dynamite on the table! By now many of the kids were used to his antics as he had made

We then had lunch in one of the old railway carriages before the kids went off to play with light shows, body



A fabulous day trip to Snibston Discover Park was one of the highlights of the holiday club this year.

First of all we had some time to look around some of the exhibitions.

Then we were shown around the colliery by a very entertaining ex miner called Alwyn. He

them all jump at least 3 times and scared them all when he put them in the cage at the pit head!



exhibits, big lumps of coal and even balancing a ball on a column of air.

They then went playing in the water park - where some of them managed to get extremely wet playing with all the exhibits.

The children were so well behaved, had a really great time and made us very proud of them.

New Stuff!

The outside of the village hall needed some attention as the back had been overgrown with nettles which we felt was a hazard to the children. The area was also used as a dumping ground for old broken chairs and rubbish.

With some local help from Mr Parnham (Ross and Tom's Dad) we have cleared the area at the back and put down gravel on a membrane so as to keep the nettles at bay.

We no longer have to endure nettle rash when fishing out balls and bean bags etc.

New Equipment

- TV with DVD Player
- Games computer
- Unihockey set
- Kwik Cricket set
- Footballs
- Athletic equipment
- Discus and Javelin
- Table tennis bats and balls
- Tag rugby belts
- Tug of war rope
- Pool Cues
- Rounders set
- Skipping ropes
- Hama Beads
- Modelling equipment

A Smiz Kids view of the club

By Kelly Burdett

On the second week my favourite day was the ship wreck. You could dress up in old clothes and we played lots of games with Stuart.

My favourite days on the

third week was Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Tuesday we watched a film called Hook and it was like you were at a real cinema.

Wednesday we filmed our own films and watched part of them.

On Thursday we went to the Imax cinema and I watched the haunted castle. It made me jump a few times.

The next day we watched the films we had made ourselves.

Think Tank

We visited Think Tank in our movie week and the children had time to explore and have a hands on day.

The first exhibit we were escorted around was about foodstuffs from around the world. Many of the kids were grossed out by some of the bugs and things other people ate in other countries.

And yes, we did get the kids to try something! Many of them ate some worms! To be exact they were deep fried meal worms with a spicy taste. Best described as Bombay mix with a kick!

In the afternoon the children visited the Imax cinema and saw 3D films



according to their age group. Sonia accompanied the younger children and she said they were trying to catch the butterflies that they thought were flying



around them. They all looked very cute in their 3D glasses! All except Stuart - who managed to break his glasses within 5 minutes of getting into the cinema, even before the film had started! We always get one - it is just different that it was a

member of staff this time! Big steam engines and railway engines kept the older ones enthralled and Ian's group enjoyed picking out jobs from the Victorian

era. George got the best job as he was a guns m i t h . Everyone else came a close second for the worst jobs!

We even managed to sit on top of a crocodile skeleton in the Creatures exhibition.

Industry

Industrial week was very hectic with visit's to Sharpes pottery (which the children found a bit boring!), Snibston Discovery Park, Swannington Heritage Trust Windmill and Moira furnace.



We enjoyed a trip on the canal at Moira Furnace followed by soap making and a treasure hunt. Some of the boys asked us what soap was! 😊



To end this week we turned the village hall upside down, gathered tons of junk modelling stuff and had a huge model making session. The children worked so well together and produced some great models. I am sure they are adorning your sideboards as we speak!



Rainy Day at Conkers!

It was always going to be a bit touch and go on the day because the forecast was not good.

As it was, it turned out to be a very wet and dreary day, but the children's spirits weren't dampened.

The morning was spent looking around the indoor exhibits and pushing every button in sight!

After lunch in the amphitheatre the children took to the stage and entertained us all with jokes and songs. Jennifer had us in tucks with some of the jokes she had learned from Basil Brush -



Boom, Boom!!!

The children spent the dryer parts of the day map reading and orienteering around the site. A race developed between the 2 teams. One led by Ian and Rachael found all the clues except one. The second team, led by Stuart and

Lizzie, found all the clues and then promptly hid one of them!

Eventually though, Ian and Rachael's team managed to coerce the other team into revealing the missing letter

and Adam solved the clue! - *Well done Adam.*

The younger children went off with Liz and Sheila in search of mini beasts.

All in all the children did not let the weather spoil the day and we all had fun in the end.



Charity Event 1

On a scorching hot Sunday in July "Smisybusybees" made their debut as our very own running/walking team!!

We entered the 5km Race for Life and raised £797.00 for Cancer Research.

We completed the course in 45 mins with smiles on our faces, and pride in our hearts that we had done something to help.

Walking and running around the course gave us time to read some of the messages people had



written on the back of their shirts naming the people they were walking on behalf of. It was a moving occasion in many ways for a lot of us.

Thank you to all who entered and to parents that sponsored us as well as Office Depot for supplying us with the transfer sheets for our T shirts.

Dates



Nursery closure dates

The nursery will close on Friday 22nd December at 5pm. *(Please note the slightly early closing time)*

We will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January 2006 at 8am.

Smiz kids club dates

Christmas Club

Monday 19th – Friday 23rd December at 5pm *(Please note the early closing time)*

Half term Club

Monday 13th – Friday 17th February



Charity Event 2

Anyone for Coffee?

September 16th was the opening of our very own coffee shop for "Yummy Mummy" week.

Organised by Bev B in the kitchen many staff gave up a few hours of their time to help her with the venture.

We set up our coffee shop in Smisby Village Hall for 2 hours, selling a wide



selection of homemade cakes, hot drinks and homemade preserves and invited everyone in the local community to come in and visit us. Many people came in and had a cup of coffee and a chat.

The children at nursery paid £1 to wear blue or pink. We had a raffle and drawing competition.

The proceeds were £204.05, which were donated to **Clic Sargent**, a charity which provides care and support for children and families dealing with childhood cancer.

Again a big thank you for your support, especially Bev for all the cake making.

Christingle



This years Christingle service will be held at 2pm on Sunday 4th Dec at St James Church Smisby.

We would appreciate it if some of the Smiz Kids could attend to do the readings and some of the prayers. If they could arrive at approximately 1.30pm this would help with getting organised at the church.

For those of you that attended the service last year I think you will agree that seeing the children's faces all lit up by the candles was a magical moment.

There will be refreshments afterwards at the village hall.

All monies raised will again go to the children's society.



Forthcoming Charity Events

Children in need – Friday 18th November

This year for a £1 donation you can come to nursery dressed in Hawaiian theme. Get your grass skirts/ garlands and beach wear out and laugh your coconuts off at the staff!!!

Operation Christmas Child

Once again we will be



running the shoe box campaign. Nikki and Katie will be the co-ordinators and you should have all received a leaflet explaining what to do with your shoe box and what



you can fill it with. You need to enclose your cheque for £2 (per box) and return it to Katie or Nikki.

We will let you know when they need to be in by.

Stuart couldn't let us off without having his favourite subject for a whole week and we were all exhausted by the end of it.



Swimming was great once again with Fiorna our very loveable, but strict, swimming coach supervising Stuart, Charlie and Lizzie in the pool. All the children improved and learned new skills and had a "whale" of a time.

Fiorna is a senior ASA Coach and is very high up



in the swimming world. We are very lucky to have her knowledge and skills for the holiday club and we love her dearly.

Ian and Rachael qualified as cycling proficiency instructors in time for the sports week and took all the over 10's to do their cycling proficiency.

Nicola Able and Emily Marriott came along as volunteers to get some experience of working with the club and were a great help.

Once the kids had all completed their course successfully they manages a 9.5 mile cycle ride which took a bum numbing 2 ½ hours! Another great achievement.

Even the little ones did not lose out on the cycling. Those that



bought their bikes in had some lessons in the playground with Liz and had a lot of fun as well.

The one thing we did notice during sports week



was that the children ate us out of house and home. We could not keep then full!

Congratulations everyone for putting so much effort into the sports week and we hope your muscles have recovered by now!

By Sheila....

I was so impressed with the kids this summer. The staff commented on how much they enjoyed coming to work and that the children were a pleasure to be with.

An OfSTED inspector commented earlier this year that the kids really want to be here and were happy. She said that in 10 years of inspecting clubs she had rarely seen one as good as Smiz Kids. What a great feeling that is. We learn a little each time and have a staff meeting after the summer to see where we can improve.

This year we had a few administration issues that parents and children would not have been aware of, but affected the running of the club. We have looked at this and have already put in an action plan for the next club.

Every outing is assessed to see if the children enjoyed it and with one exception this year we think we got it right.

I have to say a big thank you to Rachael Morgan, Lizzie Webster, Charlie Hounslow, Fiorna Cairns-Smith, Emily Marriot and Nicola Able who helped out in the summer club.

Along with the permanent staff in the club, Liz and Stuart, they made this club a great place for kids to be.

Without their enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to their work the club would only be mediocre.

Thank You.

Sheila

Orienteering and Walking

To end an excellent holiday club some of the older children spent every morning learning all about orienteering. They excelled at everything and by the end of the week were able to recognise most map symbols from the 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 maps. They could even give a 10 digit grid reference accurate to within 10 metres.

They planned a walk, worked out how far they

were going to walk and even planned a timetable.

On Friday the children went on a walk. The older group walked 9.5 miles, a major achievement for some of the kids who had never walked any long distance before - and not a moan to be heard!

Rachael's Dad joined us for the day and kept the group amused, motivated and enthralled with stories and pointing out places of interest and local history

along the way. Ian came back at the end of the walk with a huge smile on his face because he was so proud of every one that did the walk.

The younger group managed a whopping 3.5 miles accompanied by Liz, Lizzie and Stuart. Again a major achievement and not a moaner among them.

Well done Hikers we are very proud of you. Next year we may even conquer Snowdon!!!