



Turning Champions into reporters

Michelle Kagan, Reading Champions coordinator at Barnsole Junior School in Gillingham, Kent, tells us how the boys have involved the local newspaper and grandparents in their project.

We recently decided to ask the local newspaper into the school to talk to the Reading Champions about a reporter's job. Some of our Year 6 boys are working on their gold Award and were keen to find out about how certain people's jobs involve reading.

Hayley from the Medway Messenger newspaper came along with a photographer and explained what she does to the Reading Champions and then we had some photos taken. The group were able to ask Hayley different questions and even took part in some interviews. Hayley asked them about what they do in the weekly sessions and why they enjoy coming along. A couple of the group are now quite keen to become reporters when they grow older.

This visit came just at the right time as we were having a Grandparents in School Day and the boys then wanted to act as reporters and photographers. The grandparents were more than happy to answer questions that had been made up by the Champions and photos were taken. The group then used the computers to write up their reports that were sent to the Medway Messenger along with photos.

Here is one of the reports written by Thomas in Year 6:

Grandparents' Day at Barnsole Juniors

The grandparents on Friday the 20th March 2009 seemed to enjoy their time here getting to see their grandchildren at school and to see what they get up to. They had lots of activities to do including a quiz, making a boat with straws and having tea with the children and their friends.

Some of the grandparents got to see the assembly in the morning. The first thing the grandparents got up to in the afternoon was they had a meal with his or her grandchild and their friends. Then they had a quiz in the ICT suite, they had a multi question sheet and they had to answer some questions that answer the picture shown. Then they went to the science room to try to make a boat that could float using drinking straws and could carry as many as possible *Playmobil* people on board. The task seemed kind of hard; it was a test of team work.

I interviewed two grandparents in the afternoon and their grandchildren, one in year 4 and the other in year 5 as they were making their boats. They said "when I was at school I used to like cookery, needlework and sewing". I asked them what they thought about their quiz "some of the questions were hard because I did not know what and who all the people are and what they did but most of the other questions were kind of easy" they said.

The person who organised this event was Mrs Tufnail, our school Family Liaison Officer, who said at the end "the day has been a great success".

Reported by Thomas, Year 6.