

Corfe Castle Youth Club End of Spring Term Report 2023

We barreled into 2023 and the prospect of 12 weeks of Youth Club fun with gusto after the excitement of Christmas had passed. The first week back we had quite a few absent due to the usual post Christmas sharing of coughs and colds. However we were soon back to usual with our first silent disco (the participants can hear the music through headphones, whilst those without them just look on at them dancing or head banging etc in blissful silence). We also had the lights dimmed and glo stix out(necklaces & bracelets that light up when you snap them.) We had hot chocolate with squirty cream, marshmallows & sprinkles to revive anyone who was flagging.

Celebrations: We celebrated Diversity with Chinese New Year with info about which year they were born in and Chinese food - spring rolls, prawn crackers, peppers & sweet & sour dip and of course a quiz about China.

Pancake Day was a great success with Queen of Pancakes Jane cooking up 36 pancakes with a choice of toppings - sugar & lemon, Nutella, squirty strawberry sauce and berries.

St David's Day- March 1st, was celebrated with the creation of dragons (or indeed any other creatures) out of playdough and yes a quiz (Did you know the population of Wales is 3 million and there are 9 million sheep!!)

We also had a quiz about International Women's Day (percentage of global female M.P's a paltry 25%!!) and Ro held an all inclusive Dodge Ball Tournament won by an all female team appropriately enough.

We celebrated Italy with each young person making their own personalised pizza. No time for a quiz (Oh No!!!) as the pizza assembling took all the time. The young people enjoyed the pizza enough to compensate for the lack of the usual quiz.

Our final Celebration of the term was for Easter. We held an Easter egg hunt, had Easter card making and yes ...the Easter Quiz . Shock fact 80 MILLION Easter eggs are bought in the U.K each year. !!

Trip: We had one trip this term for our senior group going ice skating at the BIC in Bournemouth in February. Corfe Charities kindly paid for the Young People's tickets and we visited McDonald's on the way back. It was a successful night with no-one sustaining an injury, and everyone behaving well.

Sports activities: It is always challenging to keep meeting the needs of our energetic young people indoors during the winter. When they can make use of the wonderful outside space it is much easier to manage. However Ro suggested getting some indoor goals for the foam footy playing, and after the initial trials of assembling the wretched things, (well done Ro), they have been a great success. They enabled our livelier members to keep occupied playing football and to prevent low level (but annoying) errant behaviour and teasing.

Other winter winners are the badminton sessions Donna Derrick runs twice a term, hoop shooting and dodgeball games. The table tennis games, carpet square racing and, on fine light evenings, the use of the school's games cage for roller skating, scootering or footy and basketball. We also had the inflatable obstacle course on March 22nd probably for the last time ever, since the hire cost has increased considerably. We were very fortunate to be given a donation of £50 by the Sweet shop & Corfe Club who ran a "Guess the number of sweets in the jar" competition over Christmas. This went towards the hire cost. The Obstacle Course was in use throughout the session with members racing each other through the obstacle course and returning to the front before the next pair could set off.. (The obstacle course is like 3 bouncy Castle sized units joined together -(they stretch almost the length of the village hall) and contains items to get round, and a ramp to climb up before exiting down a slide.It was very well used.

Crafts: We try to give our members the opportunity to do some form of craft activities most sessions. This term they have done glass painting, made playdough creatures, made cards, have created artwork for our noticeboard or to take home.

Fruit: Each session we put out free fruit and this is appreciated by our members. We try to vary it - melon, pineapples, grapes, satsumas, bananas as it has been said that fruit is sometimes unaffordable for families when times are hard.

Poverty: Purbeck Youth & Community Foundation Trust gave us 2 x £50. Sainsbury's vouchers, which they had been given by a charity to give out to families deemed to be struggling in these very difficult times. We gave these out to 2 families who we felt needed them most. Both were incredibly grateful and not offended that I'd approached them. 1 Mother said it would be nice to be able to afford a roast, and the other that it would be so good to be able to buy something other than the bare basics. These families received the vouchers confidentially, to both keep them anonymous, and because I had 2 vouchers, but of course nearly everyone is struggling. I have heard of a young person who had not had any lunch because her Mum hadn't put money on her card (which pays for dinners), the Mum is not an awful person and I imagine she just hadn't got it to put onto the card. Another young person whose single Mum is working full time, said that she'd had to SORN her car as she couldn't afford to keep using it, (I'd asked whether he went to Bournemouth much and he was explaining why he didn't). Another Mum said she could no longer afford to shop at Tesco. I have noticed Young people wearing shoes that are almost falling apart and barely fit them. Times are hard.

P.Y.C.F is offering Easter activities which are free for young people on Free School Meals or for a payment or donation if they aren't. I have drawn attention to these activities with parents and young people.

Issues: Our members are lovely Young People who are occasionally a little bit over exuberant- due to their youth. Sometimes there are slight issues of teasing etc but we always challenge this, and most respond well to being spoken to and having it explained to them why or how their behaviour isn't acceptable.

We appreciate financial and practical support from The Parish Council, Purbeck Youth & Community Foundation, Corfe Castle Charities, The Sweet Shop & Corfe Castle Club. Also volunteers Donna Derrick, Gill , Jane & Eliana who contribute to the smooth running of the club & Ro is a fine games master, organising group games with the aid of our much used megaphone.

This term Ro & I have attended courses in Parental Conflict, & Health & Safety, and I have attended Emergency First Aid at Work all arranged through Purbeck Youth & Community Foundation Trust.

We are looking forward to the summer term and being able to take advantage of the splendid school field with its lovely views (so fingers crossed it stops raining soon!)

Donna Bickerstaff & Ro King April 2023