



Our school have been visiting the Woodlands Dementia care home for the last two years.



The Worship Warriors and History Ambassadors visited to join in with their DDay party.



I was nervous at first but after a while I got used to it and enjoyed it- I made their day by being there.



We visited them to give them their Easter gift bags and cards. We also did a Words of Wisdom questionnaire with them. They were so delighted with our gifts that one of the lady's started crying.

Who are the Worship Warriors?

This is a leadership group in our school who are responsible for ensuring that our school value 'Christ in everything we do' is true. We discuss ways of raising money for charities and helping others. Before we started our visits to the care home we decided we needed to learn more about Dementia. Mrs Cooper first went on a Dementia friends training course and then the Worship Warriors spent time learning about what Dementia is and the impact it has on peoples' lives.



The Worship Warriors made Easter gift bags for our friends in the Dementia care home. We made cards, bought them a special gift and decorated gift bags.



When we first visited we found it difficult as we weren't sure what to say to them or how to act around them as lots of us had never met people with Dementia before. On our first visit we took some of our school books with us so we could show them. We realised that they just wanted to talk to us and we enjoyed our visits.



Supporting our local dementia care home has brought so much joy to our school. Giving time is the most precious gift that we have to share with others and the children at St Philip's blow me away each time with their ability to bring love, care and cheer to the residents. They show a level of maturity, understanding and patience that is way beyond their years. I couldn't be more proud of the work that we do at Woodlands, it is the very essence of our school value, "Christ in everything we do". I send our children around the corner knowing that they are an individual package of joy, that they will share their love unconditionally and that they will make a difference to the residents and the staff. Woodlands is a very special place...and so is our school, it's literally a match made in heaven. Long may our wonderful relationships with the lovely residents and staff continue!

Sandie Edward (Headteacher St. Philips)

Seed planting

The Worship Warriors helped the residents to plant seeds ready to go in pots in their garden.
Our Eco group also planted trees in the Care homes garden.



Christmas party visit-

We visited on their Christmas party day. We enjoyed dancing around the lounge with them and even got a gift from Father Christmas!

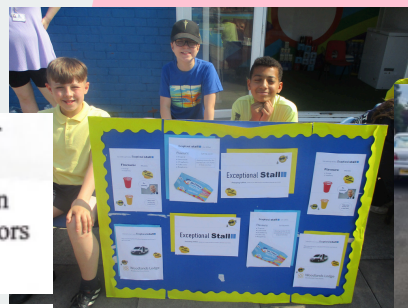


Why do we want to help them?
'Helping people makes me feel nice'
'They're so kind'
'They're really kind and like having a chat'
'Helping people makes me feel special'
'May be the only present they get'

Extract from a letter of thanks recieved in school from the husband of one of the residents....

Would you please thank all the worship warriors of year three, for their gift of hand-crafted cards brought much joy, laughter and merriment to the residents of Woodland Manor and especially my good lady wife Phyllis who took great delight in showing me the wonderful, handmade greeting cards produced by the worship warriors of St Phillips primary school?

I do apologise for the lateness of my letter. But life's events seem to conspire against me, preventing the sending of a delayed thank-you letter to the magnificent worship warriors. A little thank-you letter of my appreciation of their kindness and the beautiful gift; of their personal and unique hand-crafted greeting cards to my wife Phyllis and all the elderly residents in Woodland Manor.



Year 6 Smile challenge- We sold drinks, snacks and ice lollies at our school sports day to raise money for a minibus for the Woodland Dementia Carehome. All six groups were given £10 to buy or make stock. At the end of the week we ended up with roughly £400 profit! We also had a raffle - all the prizes were donated by school staff. Lastly we did a sponsored walk with the residents and raised nearly £700 in total.

We wanted to help them as our school value this half term is 'Compassion'. We thought about how important it was for the residents to be able to get out and about.

This has given us a great opportunity to form positive relationships with the children and our residents. It was fascinating to see how the residents with dementia became more motivated and willing to speak to the children and answer their questions and be more involved in day-to-day activities and events.

Our residents were so excited when the children brought fruit trees to plant in our garden- they loved sharing their skills and knowledge with the children. We would also like to say a big thank you for joining us in our fancy dress sponsored walk and donating a large amount for a minibus fundraiser. The Easter and Christmas cards and gifts that were personalised for each resident were not only therapeutic but gave them a sense of belonging. Many of our residents' families live far away or are at work and some have no families- when the children visit it gives them a chance to recall good memories from their childhood, families and and reminisce. As for the children, they simply do not see limitations in people the way adults do, and remained their usual playful selves, engaging, laughing, and looking for the physical contact that often our residents crave so much. When your Worships warriors visit a simple gesture like holding our residents' hands can bring a wide smile to their face. Our residents felt appreciated and valued. They talked about that visit with each other and their families expressed how happy and effective your visits were on our residents mental and social wellbeing. We look forward to more visits and maintaining the positive impact we have for both generations.

Liz Seville (Manager)