

INTERGENERATIONAL LINKING CASE STUDY

THE WHITE HOUSE AND OUR LADY & ST PATRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Centrum Homes (The White House in Teignmouth) have an Intergenerational link with Our Lady and St Patrick primary school. Last year a few children from year 6 were invited into the home to decorate Christmas cookies with the residents and in return, the children made and decorated Easter cards for every resident in the home.

Centrum Homes run a special initiative called the “Just a wish” campaign.

As part of the campaign, they aim to fulfil the heartfelt wishes of their residents, bringing joy and meaningful experiences into their lives.

Joan, a cherished resident at the White House, had expressed a deep longing to revisit her past as a teacher.

The staff have been inspired by OLSP school’s commitment to fostering a nurturing learning environment and believed that Joan’s presence could impart an invaluable wisdom and create lasting memories for both her and the students.

The day was set up for a meeting with year 4 students, the age of children Joan had taught.

Joan was introduced to the children by home manager Tracie, and surprised the children by telling them Joan was 98 years old and soon to be 99!



They asked Joan many questions about her career as a teacher and found out she was born in Australia and worked in a primary school in Sydney.

She also taught in a hospital for children with long term illnesses such as Polio, asthma, and leg straightening. The nurses would bring the children to her schoolroom in their wheelchairs, but sometimes she taught them by their hospital beds.



One of the questions from the students, “did you tell a child off in hospital if they fell asleep in a lesson”?

Her answer was “Yes” but she had a twinkle in her eye.

A couple of children brought Joan some their workbooks to show her what they had been learning about.

She was very interested about what the Romans brought into Britain and how the children had made cup and string telephones in their science lessons.

Joan maybe nearly 99 but she certainly hadn't lost her ability to decipher children's handwriting and correct the grammar and spelling.



Year 4 made a thank you card for Joan and for sharing her story of teaching in Australian Primary schools.

Carole Bryant, the Caritas Development Worker for Torbay, supported this event.

“Through Intergenerational Linking, young and older people can share time and stories, which create meaningful and lasting relationships between generations. This was wonderful to see in action with the pupils from Our Lady & St Patrick and Joan from the White House.”

If you are in the Torbay Deanery and would like to develop an intergenerational link, please contact carole.bryant@prcdtr.org.uk or call 07939 959521