

## **Report on Visit to St Raphael's Catholic Primary School: Visited 14 July 2011**

The Diggler's took a visit to St Raphael's Catholic Primary School to talk about the welfare of pets, RSPCA and wild animals and taught the children how to look after their pets properly and how to keep them healthy and happy.

Cath Pearson varied her presentation to suit the different audiences from reception up to year 6. All the children participated and responded very well to the tasks set. For the younger children a felt board was used to stick on the needs of a dog; the children managed to guess every necessity that a dog requires with great enthusiasm. A toy dog and cat were also used so they could have a go at using Vet's equipment for themselves. Obviously plastic syringes, stethoscopes and other instruments were used during this activity.

The older children watched a video about the insides of a veterinary surgery which was interesting for all I think.

I will be very surprised if any of them own any unhealthy pets!

A video played to all age groups made them think about what they did with their rubbish once they'd finished with it. Recycle and Reuse. The children learnt cans, bottles, bottle holders...could all potentially hurt roaming animals, they all learnt how to reduce this risk and keep them safe from these dangers. The children can have a vast involvement in the charity by donating cat food or submitting posters or videos their work may be uploaded onto the website.

It is critical that when contemplating about buying a pet ensure that you have done some research on that animal to guarantee that it is the right animal for you; think about whether you are going to and are able to give this animal the best quality of life all of it's life and not when it suits you. If you are able to do that then that decision will be one of the best decisions you have ever made.

Every one of them seemed to adore their pets, telling me about some they had rescued and what and how many they have had.

It was a successful and enjoyable visit to the primary school and it is fair to say that not only did the children enjoy it but it appeared that the teachers took an interest in it too. I have never spoken to a whole class of primary school children before and it was an inspirational experience, they all were extremely pleasant and polite and I have learnt that even at a very young age when you aren't fully able to look after yourself you are still able to look after an animal. It was a pleasure to come and help with the project. I hope it will not be my last presentation with The Diggler's.

Natalie Dodd