

HYTHE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Early Excellence Centre

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

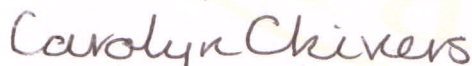
When the circus came to school we prepared, with some trepidation, ourselves for a jolly time which would have very little impact on children's learning. (Everyone of us have had visiting artists in school who are a big disappointment). How wrong we were this has been one of the most exciting learning experiences we have been able to offer our children this year. Every aspect of the curriculum has been covered in a meaningful, enjoyable way which has developed the skills of every child in the school. We combined the circus visit with our annual book week, a week where every child in the school publishes their own book. This year we naturally used the circus as the theme for our books, because now the children of Hythe Community know what it is like to really work in a circus. Some children have written circus stories, others have written non fiction books about circus life and others have written poetry. Their reading, writing and ICT skills have all been displayed in the books as have their art, maths and DT skills.

All children took part in a series of circus skills workshops during the week. These were run by the staff from the Cirque de Normandy and they were just terrific, gentle, funny, highly skilled artists who taught children to walk on a not too high high-wire, sky walk on stilts, toss a diablo, balance devil sticks and lasso a rope to name but a few skills. While developing their physical talents, children were also taught personal and social skills like turn taking, collaborative working and a little French.

On the third day the children performed their own circus to their parents and friends, we saw children who became circus stars, adoring the spotlight and enjoying the audience. The grand finale of the week was a circus performed by the professionals which we also shared with the other schools and pre- schools.

Our children are very young, but the support and encouragement given to them by Cirque de Normandy was amazing, we would recommend them to any schools who are interested and will certainly have them back in the near future.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Carolyn Chivers
Headteacher

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