

Community

Fairfield Primary School has more active kids

LONG skipping ropes were among the items on a healthy list of new sports equipment delivered to Fairfield Primary School, Stapleford, by staff from Sainsbury's, Beeston, last week.

Parents and pupils had been busy collecting coupons as part of the supermarket's 'Active Kids' scheme. Each £10 spent in the store earns one 'Active Kids' voucher, and the school had collected 8479 vouchers since the latest campaign started.

Class teacher and PE co-ordinator Robert Chapman said: "We believe in PE at Fairfield. We have a number of activity clubs, most of them aimed at increasing the amount of time the children spend outside so, in addition to replacing some worn

out equipment, we added some new kit in the form of hula hoops, exercise balls, netballs, baseballs, bats and pompoms.

We also play tag rugby, hockey and indoor athletics, and we asked for some more coloured place spots – you can never have too many place spots!"

And those long skipping ropes?

"People forget just how exhilarating skipping using a long rope is," Mr Chapman said. "The children are being active without giving any thought to being active, and they're not aware of the amount of energy they're using to skip with a long rope."

The school has a netball club, which fields teams in the South Broxtowe

Friendly Tournament each year. The team members were delighted to take delivery of one specific item requested when they traded in their 'Active Kids' vouchers – a set of netball bibs. These will be worn with pride the next time the school team ventures out.

The Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' scheme began in 2005, and 43 schools in the Beeston/Broxtowe area are registered to take part – the schools themselves register.

PR and Charity Co-ordinator Debbie Kirby and Commercial Manager Sue Dickinson travelled from Sainsbury's Beeston to present the young Stapleford schoolchildren with the smaller items of kit.

Debbie said: "The 'Active Kids' scheme has become very popular. Since it started

in 2005, Sainsbury's has handed over the equivalent of £1.6 million in sports equipment and, this year, it has been extended to allow Scouts and Guides groups register to take part."

Brownies visit Town Hall and collect cheque

A GROUP of Brownies visited the Town Hall this week to collect a cheque from the Mayor of Broxtowe as the council sponsors a specially planted flowerbed to mark the centenary of Girlguiding.

The Council has provided sponsorship to Girlguiding Beeston of £2800 for the flowerbed on the edge of Bramcote Hills Park by the Sherwin Arms island. The 22 Brownies from 5th Beeston (St Johns) were invited by the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr John Longdon, and the Mayoress to collect the cheque on behalf of all the Brownies and Guides in the borough.

The Mayor made the visit a special occasion for the young people and, after being put on the look-out for Brock the Badger, the council mascot, and the Broxtowe insignia, the Brownies were invited into the New Council Chamber to watch a video about the borough of Broxtowe.

First, though, Civic Officer Suzi McCullough gave them a practice run through the etiquette of standing to receive the Mayor and Mayoress into the chamber.

Drinks and biscuits had been laid on for the girls in the Old Council Chamber to round off the evening.

Mums can milk it at breastfeeding group

A NEW weekly breastfeeding support group in Beeston welcomed 11 mums to its inaugural meeting on October 9.

The group has been formed by two local mothers, fully registered Breastfeeding Network (BfN) helpers Alice de la Rue and Nerida Kho, both trained in infant feeding and breastfeeding skills.

Their new group will offer independent information and support to new and expectant mums as well as those who've decided they would like to try breastfeeding second or subsequent babies.

Alice explained: "I found it difficult to breastfeed my first child, Amy, and I would have welcomed somewhere to go for qualified advice and the peer group support you get from other new mums in a similar situation."

The new weekly drop-in group, the 100th to be opened by BfN across the country, aims to offer exactly that level support to all mums and their babies and toddlers, and mums-to-be thinking about how they might feed their baby. The focus is on breastfeeding, but mums who are feeding their babies formula are also welcome.

Mums can sit and chat informally with the rest of the group and speak to Alice or Nerida about any queries or concerns they may have.

Nerida said: "We're very pleased with the response we've had this morning. The general feeling is that there isn't enough good quality guidance available for a concerned mum, struggling to feed her baby, to help her make the right decision. It could be something simple that isn't working, like mum not sitting in such a way that helps her baby latch

easily, and mum needing to be shown another way. Health visitors don't always have time. Support for breastfeeding is always there in theory, but sometimes it gets dropped off in practice, and that's where we want the weekly drop-in centre to help. The peer group aspect works well, too, when it's linked with a professional organisation like the BfN.

Alice gave an example of how the group can assist. "We use a 'hands off' approach and do not touch either mum or her baby, but talk through what can be done to improve things. We'll use a special doll to demonstrate positioning if necessary. One mum this morning had been given conflicting advice and wasn't sure what she should do for the best. We like to think that we've empowered her to consider different ways of feeding her baby and to

make sure she was sitting correctly before she started to feed. She now feels so much more confident.

"Advice may not even be needed, just guidance. And if necessary, we can signpost our mums to either their GP or health visitor, or to number of breastfeeding

helplines," she finished.

Beeston Breastfeeding Drop-In Centre runs at the Family Support Centre, Trevor Road, Beeston, on Fridays between 9.30am and 11.30am.

All new and expectant mums are welcome.

Lost and found: Beeston Toreadors

IN the last issue of *The Beeston Express*, we published a request from a lady seeking information and/or photographs about the Beeston Toreadors, a marching band that was big in the area in the 1930s.

We have received several replies and a number of photographs have been located. Some of these have been donated, others will be copied and returned.

Many, many thanks to everyone who has taken the trouble to reply.

The lady seeking the information has been advised of what we've collected on her behalf, and she is delighted with the response. She also wishes to pass on her sincere thanks to everyone who has helped.