

St Andrew's School Working Towards Becoming Dementia Friendly

On Monday 20th March, Dementia Champion, Joani Beale, came to our Primary school in Ramsbottom to spend the day with the staff and children and to teach us all about Dementia Friends and how we can all help people we know and people we might meet with dementia.



At the beginning of the day, Joani took our whole school assembly explaining that she was a Dementia Friend, who had taken further training to become a Dementia Champion, in a volunteer role, which allowed her to facilitate a day in our school to introduce us to the 5 Key Messages and for the whole school to become Dementia Friends.

Joani read the reception children a touching story called 'Grandma', which they all loved. Each child then made a promise to help and drew a picture of their promise. Each class then had their own session to talk and interact with Joani learning more about dementia, how to be a good dementia friend and ideas of



what we can all do moving forward to raise awareness in our community. We had powerpoint presentations and an interactive quiz on the 5 Key Messages. Our Year 3 children also had a moving story called 'Mile High Apple Pie' which gave them a greater understanding of how dementia can affect a family.

We had a fabulous day where all the children and staff learnt a lot about dementia and the people who live with dementia and how we can all help people to live well with this disease.

Altogether we collected 267 promises and every child in the school who was there that day, is now a Dementia Friend wearing their badge with pride.

We ended the day by making a River of Coins on the playground which everybody contributed to and which raised over £250! As the school council have chosen the Alzheimers Society, Alzheimers Research UK and a local Dementia Café (D-CaFF Greenmount – which Joani with a group of volunteers runs) they are planning a social event in school to raise further awareness and funds as well as some fun sponsored events later in the year.

The school is hoping to join the Bury Dementia Action Alliance and also for the school councillors to attend one of the D-CaFFs that Joani runs and the school Head, Damian Marsh and all his staff, are very enthusiastic about this project.

Joani is my neighbour and good friend and we, as a family have been supporting her at the D-CaFF since it opened with cakes and pies and have attended in the Summer Holidays. It's always a pleasure to help her, the volunteers and members of the café. As a school we very much hope to be a supportive part of their community as it grows from strength to strength.

Nina Turnbull

Teaching Assistant, Parent and Proud Dementia Friend

