

News release: EVALUATIONS IN ON BUDDYING SCHEME RUN BY RELATE CAMBRIDGE AT GIRTON GLEBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Earlier this year Relate Cambridge worked with Cottontails pre-school and Girton Glebe Primary School to set up a scheme called 'Be a Buddy' which was funded by Girton Town Charity. The overall aim of the scheme is to support pre-school children in their move to primary school. Ellie Thomas delivered the training and Elaine Taylor co-ordinated the scheme. Chris Christie (the Family Support Worker at Girton Glebe Primary School) has been a vital link between Relate and the school. Relate has recently been back to the school to deliver the final training session with the Year 6 'buddies', and to see how things have been going, now that the reception children have had the chance to settle in.

Planning for the scheme began this time last year, and a huge amount of time has been spent in the actual preparation and delivery of the 6 training sessions as well as liaising between the school and pre-school. Elaine said: 'We all feel very proud of the impact the scheme has had. Seeing how much the buddies have gained and the lovely way they were interacting with the younger children over lunch on the final day of the scheme is certainly something I shall never forget'.

When the year 6 pupils were asked about the things that they most enjoyed most about being a buddy they said: '*Spending time with younger children and communicating with others, once we got to know the reception children, it makes it easier, we can treat them as a friend, It was good seeing some of the reception children becoming more confident as we taught them English*'. When the year 6 pupils were asked what they had realised from being part of the scheme they said '*not seeing so much of my own friends made me realise I don't need to be with them all the time, and what it feels like to be in the reception class, as well as the responsibility that goes with being older – we can't muck around*'

The following statistics were taken from the evaluation forms we collected at the final session:

QUESTION	ANSWER
I enjoyed the Be a Buddy course	YES: 78.57%
I enjoyed meeting my buddy	YES: 71.43%
I was able to use the things I learnt with my buddy	YES: 71.43%
I felt I helped my buddy to settle in	YES: 71.43%
I have helped my buddy in school	YES: 78.57%
I have helped my buddy in the playground	YES: 78.57%

ENDS

For all media enquiries contact Elaine Taylor on **01302 347712**
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