



Primary School Storytelling Bazaar

The storytelling bazaar concept is based upon the markets of Marrakech. There, in the city of Jemaa el-Finaa, you would find stalls peddling clothing, food, pots.... and folklore.

Each storyteller gathers a small crowd at their stall or tent, and aided by little more than a story space and perhaps a prop or two – spins a tale to take the weary shoppers on a re-energising adventure to a faraway land. When the story is over, the crowd disperse to continue with their shopping... or find another teller.

The Primary School Storytelling Bazaar

Alliance saw this project as an opportunity to develop relationships with Melbourn Village College and at the same time to help with transition for Years 5 and 6 to secondary school.

Research published by Academics from Manchester and Cambridge Universities led by Ioannis Katsantonis states that:

“Most young people in the UK experience a sharp decline in their subjective well being during their first years at secondary school, regardless of their circumstances or background, new research shows.

The adolescents’ overall “subjective well being” – their satisfaction with different aspects of life (such as friends, school and family) – drop significantly during the years between ages 11 and 14. We urgently need to do more to support students well being at the beginning of secondary school.”

Alliance has always recognised the importance of promoting a good, healthy transition from Primary to Secondary school.

The Primary School Storytelling Bazaar project was a collaboration between alliance, Melbourn Village College and Snail Tales who were founded in 2007 by storytellers Amy Robinson and Chip Colquhoun, the vision being an organisation that would share the art of storytelling with others and encourage them to start telling too.

The Storytelling Bazaar was held over a number of weeks involving a cluster of thirteen primary schools. Working with Snail Tales each primary school received five one hour storytelling workshops for their Year 5/6 classes. During the workshops children developed their own stories to tell. Each school then had the option to develop the stories with arts practitioners, some using music, dance, aboriginal art work to feed into the story bazaar.

Each school held their own mini in-school bazaar to share their work with the other classes and then came together to share their work at Melbourn Village College with families and friends and other primary schools.

