

FUN AND GAMES TO BE HAD AS SEMBCORP SUPPORTS SUMMER PLAYScheme FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Claire Evenden admires a child's artwork

Children with autism and a wide range of other special needs have gone back to school during part of their summer holidays – and absolutely loved it!

A donation by Sembcorp contributed to the £13,000 needed to fund a week of activities at Kirkleatham Hall School adjacent to the Wilton International site.

Around 40 children aged from 4 to 16 from across Teesside supervised by 22 dedicated staff, teaching assistants and volunteers enjoyed plenty of fun and games as part of the school's Special Needs Activity Playscheme (SNAP).

A bouncy castle proved popular as did various arts and crafts activities, but best for some was the opportunity to hurl wet sponges at deputy head Paul McLean as he stood helpless in the 'stocks'!

Visits by feathered friends from the nearby Kirkleatham Owl Centre proved a hoot as did entertainer "Silly Steve." Lessons in circus skills and a final day barbeque also proved big favourites during the fun-packed week.

Lucy Chapman, Child and Family Wellbeing Leader at the school, said: “We’re hugely grateful to Sembcorp and all our supporters including our parents who raise so much to make this important event happen. Our biggest cost is salaries as we need to employ experienced staff from the school to look after the children whose needs can be very complex.”

Other substantial funders thanked by the SNAP team included The 3 Guineas Trust, Cleveland Golf Club, Middlesbrough and Teesside Philanthropic Society, Steel Enterprise and Guisborough Co-op.

Helen Martin, the parent of a child at the school as well as a governor and member of the SNAP organising committee, said: “The scheme is a lifeline to a lot of our families during the long six weeks holiday.

“It is especially important for children with additional needs as they don’t always comprehend the concept of holidays and can feel very isolated and excluded from mainstream activities.”

The pictures show Sembcorp’s Sally Thomas and Claire Evenden joining in the fun during a special invitation to the playscheme.

Sally, a buyer in the Purchasing team, said: “It was great to see the smiles on the children’s faces and I’m sure there are a number of ways we can support this great week of events in future.”



Deputy Head Paul McLean gets a soaking in the ‘stocks’



Claire and Sally Thomas join in the fun on the bouncy castle and below Helen Martin encourages her child on a swing

