



Barley Barkway Federation First Schools

Intergenerational Project
with
Margaret House

Residential and Dementia Care Home
2023-24

The Barley Barkway Federation and Margaret House Residential and Dementia Care Home intergenerational project

Mrs Porter (year 3) is the lead teacher and events are planned collaboratively with staff from Margaret House. Intergenerational projects have been proven to energise adults and improve their wellbeing as well as reducing isolation. The older generation enjoy sharing their experience and skills which many of the young children are curious about.

We began our intergenerational project in 2022 and enhanced the whole programme of events in 2023 to include weekly reading sessions and monthly lunches. The impact on the children and residents has been incredibly positive. Our year 3 children are reading friends (buddies) to residents and read weekly at Margaret House. We work closely with the management team and collaborate in many events including:

- Step Out with Carers;
- National Art Day in Care Homes;
- Monthly lunch;
- Weekly Reading;
- Games and drawing.

The residents have also visited us in school and are invited to our events within Barley church which is located next door to Margaret House.



In July 2024 we were invited to a party with the residents to celebrate our successful project. The year 3 children took over a piece of their artwork as a gift to their reading



buddies. The Catering Manager, John, enjoyed preparing a picnic lunch for the children and Lea-Ann thanked the children for their support over the year. "Your visits made a real difference."

We are excited to become involved with the new Barley Community Garden and are in talks with the management team at Margaret House to work collaboratively with our reading buddies at the Community Garden.

For more information about our intergenerational project please contact Carol Porter, year 3 teacher through the school email address:

admin@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk

Reading at Margaret House

The children in year 3 take their reading books over to Margaret House on a Tuesday afternoon. The children read to the residents, share news and ask questions. The children develop their speaking and listening skills and confidence to speak with adults. These sessions support the wellbeing of the residents. The children have also sung songs including songs from our Christmas concert and shared our school prayer with the residents. The children are curious about the lives of the residents and as the relationships grow find out many interesting facts about the residents from their youth.



Finley (year 4) "I have some new friends at Margaret House now and I love going".

Stepping out with Carers

Stepping out with Carers is an annual event in care homes. We arranged for all children in Barley to participate with their buddies. The Mayor of Royston ran with the children and was thankful for their perseverance to increase the overall total steps run for Margaret House. It was a beautiful sunny day and another successful example of our intergenerational project and the positive impact on the residents and the children.



National Art Day in Care Homes

Theme : Home Sweet Home

A wonderful session where children in years 2 and 4 were tasked to choose an image with a resident, colour the images in using a range of media and then discuss what the image meant to them. Henry was surprised that Renee had "never been on a slide" and Jaxon told her "There is a new slide in Barway park." The children and residents collaborated to make a piece of art which is displayed in the hallway within the care home.

