

E-mail from Heidi Taylor- Head of All Faiths Primary School Strood -1-4-11

Dear John,

Just wanted to thank you for coming to school yesterday for Special People Day, the children were thrilled to see you, they regard you as a Very Special Person indeed!

I was delighted to hear about the Northern Ireland pilot of Skip2BFit. I'm sure the children there will benefit enormously, as ours have. The health and maths skills advantages of the programme are obvious to all, for us, it's the motivational aspect that is hugely successful for our children - across the whole curriculum!

Our children come to us with levels of attainment that are well below national averages. Last year, the progress that they made between KS1 and KS2 put them in the top 2% nationally. 94% attained L4+ in English and maths (disaggregated by our SSEN pupils) and 88% achieved L4+ English and maths combined.

These children have experienced the Skip2BFit programme (thank goodness I was able to find the funding!) year on year for about 4 years. They apply the skills they learn (perseverance, concentration, setting themselves aspirational targets etc) to their learning in the classroom because that "Yes" feeling they experience when achieving skipping targets is so satisfying! It gives them a sense of worth and enhanced self-esteem which translates into very positive attitudes to learning.

The even better news is, that even the children who join us during KS2, get the bug - it's definitely infectious!

So, every best wish for the pilot and thank you for everything you have done for the children here, you truly make a difference to their lives.

Heidi (Taylor, HT All Faiths' Children's Community School, Strood, Kent.)

