

MATHS FUN FOR PRIMARY SHARED EDUCATION CLASSES

FAMILIES have been having fun with sums as part of an innovative shared education project delivered by two Co Tyrone primary schools.

Fivemiletown's Shared Education project employed fun maths activities to bring children together in the classroom and foster collaboration between their parents in after school workshops. The project involved Fivemiletown PS and St Mary's PS in Fivemiletown.

Fivemiletown PS teacher, Mark Bloomfield, said the longer term aim of the project "is to bring people together to build strong communities that are respectful of difference in all its forms".

The initiative involved the use of teaching and learning resource Izak9, which is designed engage more children in maths and STEM subjects by making sums enjoyable for all.

Mr Bloomfield said Izak9 had proven an "excellent vehicle" in the Shared Education process.

"It is very engaging for children and very effective in stimulating conversation and developing thinking and problem-solving skills," he said.

Bringing the parents of the children from both schools together "went very well", he added.

"The family event was delivered in a very relaxed manner which put everyone at ease. It gave the children the opportunity to showcase their maths and communication skills to their parents. Parents also enjoyed sharing in their children's learning and also the social aspect of forming new friendships with other parents."

St Mary's PS, Fivemiletown teacher, Siofra Gallagher, said: "The Izak9 parents' evening was very successful as it showcased all that is good about Shared Education - children enjoying working together with a shared goal free from any inhibitions.

She added: "Izak9 provided the perfect platform for our children from both partner schools to engage with each other.

"Through the various maths challenges that Izak9 posed, the children gradually came out of their comfort zone and were willing to take risks in their processing and decision making."

Mr Bloomfield added: "Shared education is very important as it aims to build relationships within local communities through providing a platform where pupils, teachers, support staff and governors can learn together in pursuit of common goals. The main aim is to raise the educational outcomes of the children along with schools sharing resources. It is also a useful means for providing staff development opportunities."



Children enjoy working with IZAK9.



Fivemiletown's Shared Education Project brought children together in the classroom and saw the collaboration of parents in afterschool workshops.



Children enjoying Fivemiletown's Shared Education Project.



Fivemiletown pupils working out a solution together.



Fivemiletown's Shared Education Project bringing children together in the classroom.

Driver fined after injuring pedestrian

A 68-YEAR-OLD motorist who injured a female pedestrian in a road traffic collision in Lisnaskea has been fined £100.

James Beattie, of Killyfole, Rosslea, pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention at the junction of Church Lane and Main Street, Lisnaskea on May 9, 2017.

Fermanagh Magistrates Court heard that, at 3.15pm, police were tasked to the report of a one-vehicle road traffic collision involving a female pedestrian.

The defendant, who was driving a blue Nissan car, had been emerging from Church Lane and turning right on to Main

Street at a "low speed" when he hit a female who had been darting across the road, causing her to fall to the ground.

The victim sustained a lower back injury and attended hospital, the court heard.

She told police that she believed the driver had stopped to let her across.

Defending solicitor, Grainne Mulligan, told the court that the woman had come out from behind a parked vehicle and did not use the pedestrian crossing further down the road.

The solicitor said that Beattie had immediately exited his vehicle at the scene and fully

cooperated with police.

She told the court that the defendant was a retired fire officer with over 25 years' experience who apologised for the distress caused.

Deputy district judge, Laura Levers, observed that she would consider the mitigating circumstances and deal with

the case "exceptionally".

Taking into account that the defendant had acknowledged his responsibility and the injuries were not more serious, the judge fined him £100, ordered him to pay a £15 offender levy and endorsed his driving licence with three penalty points.