

# Spring Capers... Fun and Puzzle Page

**Question:** How can you throw a ball as hard as you can and have it come back to you, even if it doesn't hit anything, there is nothing attached to it, and no one else catches or throws it?

**Answer:** Throw the ball straight up in the air.

## Name the dog

**Question:** Once a dog named Nelly lived on a farm. There were three other dogs on the farm. Their names were Blackie, Whitey, and Brownie. What do you think the fourth dog's name was?

**Answer:** Nelly. (If there are only four dogs on the farm, the fourth one must be Nelly!)

## Cat & Mice

**Question:** Five mice — Mindy, Marty, Muriel, Mabel, and Mike — were nibbling the cheese on the kitchen table, but Whiskers the cat chased them back into their hole. Muriel Mouse made it back third, and Mike Mouse was fourth. Mabel Mouse was after Mike, and Marty Mouse was not second. Which mouse was first, and which was last?

**Answer:** Marty Mouse was first and Mabel Mouse was last.

## You're having a laugh

**Question:** Where do ghosts send their laundry?

**Answer:** To the dry- screamers



## Can you find the ten Premiership football club names

1. ARSENAL
2. BLACKBURN
3. BOLTON
4. CHELSEA
5. LIVERPOOL
6. MANCHESTER CITY
7. TOTTENHAM
8. MANCHESTER UNITED
9. WEST HAM
10. WIGAN

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# Fun & News

Edition 9/ March 05



Welcome to the first issue of Fun & News for 2006.

I hope for the next year you will have loads of fun and exciting things to do.

Well, what have I got to report? Lots of changes are taking place behind the scenes - much of which will not affect you. Most of the changes are because the Government wants children and young people to be safe. They want to make sure that the people who work with children do their best to make sure that they are cared for properly.

The reason why we have got to make these changes are because of what happened to a little girl named Victoria Climbié. About six years ago Victoria Climbié died after she was very badly hurt by her aunt and her aunt's partner. Victoria was only eight years old when she died. Victoria and her aunt had been in touch with lots of different people like teachers, social workers, nurses and doctors, but none of these people did enough to keep her safe and protect her. The Government set up an inquiry to find out what went wrong.

Lord Laming led the inquiry and he wrote a big report when he finished his investigations. His report said that people are not following the law properly or putting enough time and money into making sure that children and young people are safe and well. That's when the Government looked at Lord Laming's report and decided to make some changes to the way children and young people are treated. They asked young people what they thought was important to them before changing the law.

The law now says that anyone who works with children and young people should help them to:

**be healthy:** enjoying good physical and mental health and living a healthy lifestyle

**stay safe:** being protected from harm and neglect

**enjoy and achieve:** getting the most out of life and developing the skills for adulthood

**making a positive contribution:** being involved with the community and society and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour

**have a good standard of living:** not being prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life.

**These are called the Five Outcomes.**

Some of the other changes are to make just one person in the council responsible for how things are run for children and young people. This person is called the Director of Children's Services. Our new director is called Dave Hill. I met with the director and he seems very nice. He has said that he would like to make sure that all children in Merton have a say in how services are run.



# What else is new?

## Feeling sad, worried or stressed?

A new team has been set up in Social Services to help children and young people who are looked after by Social Services. They are based at Worsfold House and in the team are two psychologists and three clinical specialists called Nicole, Fiona, Joylyn, Jo and Ken.

They are there to help children who might be finding it difficult to understand what is happening to them. Or maybe they are finding it difficult to deal with their feelings, don't know why they do the things they do, or are finding it hard to live away from home. The team know that being looked after by Social Services and living away from home can be very difficult and sometimes you may feel very sad, confused and angry. Or sometimes don't you really know how you feel, especially while you are waiting for decisions to be made about where you will be living forever.

The team is there to help children and young

people like you to try to understand and deal with your feelings and to help your carers understand this so they can look after you. They will also work with your families and your Social Worker so they can all think together about what will be best for you in the future and how to help you. This may be helping you to go home or to go to live in a new family.

It can sometimes be frightening to meet new people, especially if you do not know what they will ask you. But the team will talk with you about your worries and what you would like to change to try to find ways to make it as easy for you.

The team will talk to you about what information they will share with other people. It is important you have someone like this that you can talk to on your own.

If you think they could help you, please talk to your Social Worker.

## THEATRE VISIT

If you are in year 3-9 and looked after then come along to Wimbledon theatre to see **Beauty and the Beast** on 25th March.

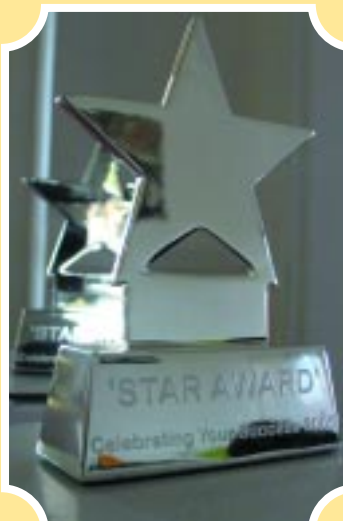
To reserve a place give Rosa Ashton a call on 8288 5654. Hurry, as the tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis.

## You've been a Star

In September sixteen young people were nominated for a star award by their Social Worker, their carer or their teacher. We had a big party to celebrate their achievement. Fourteen children were able to attend the party to receive their award, which was presented to them by Merton's deputy Mayor, Councillor Peter Southgate. They brought along their carers and friends to join in the celebrations. Pocket the clown was on hand to teach us all a few circus skills. Liz from Reconstruct brought along a lucky dip. Every one enjoyed the games like past the parcel and "queenie queenie who has got the ball"

Thank you to those who wrote and told me what you enjoyed about the day. Most people said they would like more time to spend playing games at next year's party.

This years party will take place on Thursday August 31 2006.



# What are you up to?

What do you do in your spare time? Do you take part in an activity outside school? This could be something like horse riding, football, ice-skating, gymnastics. Or do you belong to a club like Brownies, Scouts, dance or drama? I would like to know how many of our young people are involved in an activity, or if there is an activity that you like to take part in.

Don't forget you might be able to get a leisure card, which you can use in Merton leisure centres. Call Matthew Lilley for more information 8545 3910.

Why not join the music project and learn to play an instrument? If you would like to find out more then give Rosa or Angela a call on 020 8288 5656 or 020 8288 5654.

Please help your carer to complete the form which they have been sent telling me what you do in your spare time and also what else you would like to take part in.



## Black History Month Celebrations

On October 27th we had our Black History Month celebrations. A number of you attended and took part in the drumming workshop and nearly brought the house down with the vibrant sounds. Candice was on hand to paint faces while Elebe helped us write about our dreams in the creative writing workshop. A big thank you to Selvie who taught Lorna an Noni an Indian dance. Also well done to Tasharna for helping everyone to make Scoubidou.

## Christmas Card Competition



A big well done to Joshua and Jonathan for winning the Christmas card competition. We had a number of entries and the judges chose their favourite design. The winning pictures were designed into a Christmas card, which was then used as the official Christmas card given to Merton staff to send to clients and other colleagues. Congratulations to Syndica, Ryan and Yves as they were the runners-up.