



Gladstone Road Primary School



I first came across Scarborough MATES when they kindly agreed to do a display at our Village Show – they came with a selection of their handiwork (- I'm now the proud owner of an unusual shaped bird box). As I got chatting to them, I was interested to learn about the variety of crafts that their members do....and even more interested to hear that one of their aims is to reach out into the community. My ears perked up at this point as I knew school was also looking for alternative ways to engage some of our pupils. We have always offered a lot of sport/dance/music/drama extra-curricular clubs, but haven't done so many craft-based clubs, so this sounded like an exciting opportunity.

Having chatted through what might work best for everyone, we agreed that a good starting point would be for a ceramics club. Charles, Alan and Des came into school to talk through some ideas. The school chose some children they thought would enjoy these sessions....and Clay Club started! The children had a go at making a range of items from animals through to pots, Christmas decorations and pencil cases. Sometimes the 'MATES' brought in different tools for the children to experiment with and they also took away some things to fire in their kiln (sadly school no longer has a working kiln).

The children looked forward to the Thursday night club and enjoyed learning new skills: they were always proud to take home their creations.

The MATES had also supported our Open Evening, offering children the chance to have a go at using clay. Sadly due to Covid, school has not run any after school clubs since March, but several of the children have asked me if clay club would start again....and we are hopeful that in time, we will be able to offer this opportunity again!

Caroline Sarney

Business Manager