

YEAR 6 ACQUIRE NEW SKILLS AT SKILLZONE

Year 6 spent an interesting, informative and useful afternoon at Skillzone on Wednesday. Skillzone is divided into different areas, aimed at raising children's awareness of potential dangers and how they can avoid them or deal with such dangers if they arise and stay safe. There is a farmyard, a riverside, a level crossing with train carriage, a shop selling cigarettes, a building site...

For this visit, Year 6 saw the car accident, the internet café, the park with threatening stranger wanting to steal the child's phone, the dark, graffiti-covered underpass complete with guttering lights, traffic rumbling overhead and a shadowy figure lurking in the shadows as well as the compulsory a house with a hazard-filled kitchen, bathroom and lounge, a bedroom strewn with hot hair gadgets and charging hardware, a second burning bedroom and a thought-provoking burned out bedroom.



Children, who are preparing to travel by bus to their new schools in September, reported that they found particularly useful and reassuring the advice about keeping safe on a bus and how to handle unwelcome and uncomfortable attention from strangers. Also the internet café. All parents, children age 5-13 and teachers have been directed to the following website for age-related activities about keeping safe on the internet:
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

Year 6 then spent time familiarising themselves with the Magistrates Court, similar to the scene of the upcoming Mock Trial competition, for which the children all have designated roles for prosecuting an arson case, preparing as best they can to face a defence team from an opposing school. We wish them the best of luck with the case and most of all with their professionalism and improvised performance on the day, on which Gloucestershire Magistrates will be deciding the outcome of the competition.

