

HAF Provider Impact Report

Bigfoot's Ease Into Christmas at Collingwood Primary



Overview of Provision

This Christmas holiday we partnered with Bigfoot Arts Education once more to offer our students two days of enriching drama and arts provision.

Supported by two of our own staff – Ellie and Owen, each day the young people took part in a range of activities focussing on The Grinch - Play in a Day on the Thursday, and watched a performance of Dip and Dab's Dazzling Christmas Play, followed by games, on the Friday. The sessions were a celebration of how being active and creative is of huge benefit to our wellbeing, and promoted healthy eating in order to feel well and fuel our bodies.

Lunches each day were provided by Scott's Catering which is a local catering company and established provider of HAF meals. They worked with us to design a menu which we felt was appealing, as well as providing good nutrition to fuel the young people throughout the two days.





Marketing and Registration

Bigfoot created a promotional flyer and the school publicised the provision by sending out emails, talking to parents / carers over the phone and face to face (before and after school) The school office also worked with teaching staff to identify children who would particularly benefit from attending the Christmas club.

Through the hard work of Alison Smith, who communicated with parents/carers about our offer, we reached our target of 40 sign-ups each day. As parents were now familiar with the booking system, as well as the HAF provision, we found the process less problematic and Alison ensured they had the support they needed to sign up.

It was great to see familiar faces alongside new children from many families attending the over the two days. The camp provided welcome and much needed entertainment for the children.

Attendance

28 children attended on the Thursday and 22 on the Friday. After a promising sign up, we were pleased with the overall attendance of the sessions. Particularly as Christmas is notoriously tricky to engage with families as it can be such a busy and unpredictable time. Ellie and Owen did a great job of ringing those who weren't present to check if they were coming in each morning and this allowed the Bigfoot staff to focus on delivering the sessions.

Food and Nutritional Education

We worked with a local catering company, Scott's Catering – who provided hot and healthy meal options each day.

The menu was as follows –

Thursday 2 January

Chicken nuggets with wedges and beans (veggie nuggets also available)
 Paninis with the following fillings –
 Cheese & Ham, Tuna & Cheese, Chicken, Bacon & Cheese, Cheese & Tomato
 Baked Potato with the following fillings –
 Cheese, Tuna, Beans, Cheese Savoury (Any of these can be mixed)

Friday 3 January

Veggie Lasagne with salad, coleslaw and garlic bread
 Paninis with the following fillings –
 Cheese & Ham, Tuna & Cheese, Chicken, Bacon & Cheese, Cheese & Tomato
 Baked Potato with the following fillings –
 Cheese, Tuna, Beans, Cheese Savoury (Any of these can be mixed)

We also provided fresh fruit, cereal bars, water and juice (on arrival and at breaks) to ensure that the children weren't hungry at any point and encourage nutritious and balanced eating habits. Many of the children reported that they thoroughly enjoyed the food.





Physical Activities

Both days were packed with physical activity in the form of games, drama tasks and dances. The weather was extremely cold meaning the playground was icy so we could only use a small patch of outdoor space for health and safety reasons. However, we felt it important that the children got at least some fresh air and the children enjoyed the variation of working inside and outside.

Enriching Activities, Wider Impacts and Case Studies

On the first morning we sat in a circle with the children to discuss rules and our plan for the day. We asked those who had attended Bigfoot HAF provision in the past why they keep coming back and one child put their hand up and said that they,

‘Love coming because it helps them to be kind, confident and work together as a team.’

This was such a lovely way to launch the activities.

Bigfoot’s Ease Into Christmas provided opportunities for the attendees to try new things and learn a range of creative skills. From performing themselves, to watching a Christmas performance, the children explored and developed their artistic and expressive abilities. Throughout the sessions, the facilitators used positive reinforcement and praised children for good listening, teamwork, creativity, and positive attitude to which they responded really well. It was lovely to see children from different year groups supporting each other and working together.

Confidence was built by staging a show back for the play in a day session, where they showcased skills learnt and activities they’d taken part in. It was clear the young people held a sense of pride and achievement whilst performing to their grown-ups and were eager to share what they’d been doing with us. The show backs allowed for staff to praise the successes of the children and talk a little about the process as well, which was nice to have opportunities for communication with parents and carers.



We ended on the Friday with a performance of Dip and Dab's Dazzling Christmas play that Bigfoot had been touring throughout December. The children thoroughly enjoyed watching and all of the audience participation. They then spent the afternoon taking part in games relating to the story. This was a lovely, active celebration to bring our provision to a close.



Signposting

There was no requirement or need to signpost and provide further support to families during the two days. Collingwood Primary School have a Family Support Worker who kept in touch with families who may have required support over Christmas.

Next steps

HAF funding has enabled us to provide additional support and a wider range of provision to families during school holidays and we have just heard that this funding will continue for one more year. Our partnership with Bigfoot has been really successful and with each club we are able to learn from and build to better, more efficient provision. Indeed demand for our after-school drama club was very high this January. This could possibly be influenced by the children's good experience of drama at the HAF. We aim to continue to offer a range of enriching opportunities for our children whom for, without this funding, would not ordinarily be able to access.