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Soldiers, currant buns, speckled frogs, little stars and staff pose for the camera at Scribbles. Photo by Helen Drake.

Little chatterboxes!

By Helen Drake

If you walked past Scribbles Nursery on Hertford Road one day in late February you might have heard the joyful noise of children singing well-known nursery rhymes in even louder voices than usual.

They were being sponsored to take part in the Chatterbox Challenge for I CAN, the national charity that helps children communicate. Celebrities such as Zoe Ball, Jon Snow and the comedy actress Catherine Tate are supporting the 'Make Chatter Matter' campaign, of which the Chatterbox Challenge is part.

Helen Grieve, room leader at Scribbles, said, "The children have been busy in the weeks leading up to the challenge making costumes and practising for the big day." She added that preparing for

the Chatterbox Challenge had helped the children focus at circle time and learning the new songs had expanded their knowledge.

Shareenah Cemal, who organised the event on 28 February, explained that taking part in the challenge had helped all children at the nursery develop their communication skills.

"The Grand Old Duke of York" was given an extra edge as the 10,000 men in the song were joined by a real soldier in uniform. David, husband of one of the Scribbles staff, and a member of the Scots Guards,

put on his bearskin and marched up and down the imaginary hill with the children.

I CAN say that one in 10 children have a communication disability: that's 1.2 million children across the UK. The charity provides specialist therapy and education for children who struggle to communicate, free information for parents and training and advice for teachers and other professionals.

For more information on I CAN go to www.ican.org.uk. To contact Scribbles Nursery, phone 020 8883 8546.

Park outside your own house!

Having someone else's vehicle taking up the parking space outside your home can be an annoyance but having it there for 11 months seems like a downright liberty.

A green Ford Transit van has been parked in the same spot on Creighton Avenue since May 2005 and residents are furious that it has never been moved.

Michelle Huberman, who runs her own craft materials business from home, said the owner was being plain anti-social.

She said: "The vehicle is taxed and it's not illegally parked so the council or police have no power to move it on, but it is extremely anti-social. It's a large green van that just hasn't moved for 11 months. The assumption is that someone is just using it for cheap



Photo by Michelle Huberman

storage and we're all so sick of it."

The position of the van means deliveries to Michelle's home must park some doors down and, in recent weeks, it has been causing traffic congestion while Creighton Avenue was being dug up alongside it

for pipe-laying work.

Residents say the vehicle is believed to belong to someone who lives in Hertford Road. Are you the owner or do you know who is? Get in touch with us here at *THE ARCHER*. You'll find our contact details on page 2.

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