

PRIMARY PUPILS BUST CRIME FROM THEIR SCHOOL STATION



Thames
Valley
Police

CRIME has been breaking out all over the Wychwood Primary School in Shipton-u-Wychwood, and the Windrush Valley School in Ascott-u-Wychwood during the months of May and June.

The children have been given all manner of incidents to solve at "Blyston Police Station", under the supervision of their teachers and local police officers Andy Sharples, Brian Smith and Bob Salmon.

The week was based on a computer program called "Police Language in Evidence", commencing with all pupils being sworn in as police officers by a local magistrate. Each officer was then issued with an identity card which had to be worn throughout the week.

Each team of children had to solve 'an incident' before moving onto the next case. Incidents included vandalism, accidents involving a chemical tanker and a variety of thefts. Some of the cases solved included a bogus gasman and an art theft which involved Interpol and fingerprint techniques. The teams were briefed at the beginning and end of each day. They had to keep in contact by radio; this caused early problems, but after correct procedure and use of the phonetic alphabet were mastered, the jobs were passed with relative ease.

Teachers at the school joined in the fun by taking the role of police inspectors. Several parents role played during the week both as witnesses and suspects for the teams to interview.

About 60 children were involved in the Wychwood School project, and 22 at Windrush Valley. All the children had to be observant and alert all the time. They became completely involved in the whole thing, with most of them wearing a police-type uniform. The situations were as near to reality as possible, and gave the children a deep insight into police work. The whole week involved all manner of subjects including English, Maths, Science, Geography, History and interpersonal skills.

Thames Valley Police are very grateful to both schools for getting fully involved in the programme, and the police verdict on their efforts just had to be - BRAVO.

Pc 377 Salmon.

Photographs of some of the Wychwood School Police Force are on pages 12 & 13. Unfortunately we have no photographs from Ascott, so we hope that Windrush Valley School Police Force will accept our apologies.

