

Magistrates Come to Four Marks

On the 25th of September Year 6 were lucky enough to have some magistrates from court to come in and talk to them about what they did in the court. They told the pupils everything about being a magistrate, and how there are 3 different types of courts which deal with youths, family and adults. The children also found out that the Magistrates were all volunteers and didn't get paid for doing the job.

They were also warned that children as young as 10 could still find themselves facing a court if they had done something dreadful!

The pupils then held a pretend trial. It was about a lady called Mrs Jones and how she was accused of stealing a cardigan for her child Tracey. First all the witnesses came in and had to swear an oath that they would say the truth. Then they said what they saw. The witnesses said that they had seen Mrs Jones looking around and then put the cardigan down on top of one of her 4 shopping bags. She then walked to the cash point and paid for everything else she had except for the cardigan.

The defendant (Mrs Jones) said that she had been looking around for her sister Mrs Smith, who she had been shopping with, and when she couldn't see her went to the cashpoint to pay. She said that the cardigan must have accidentally slipped in without her noticing, she said that Tracey had been whining and pulling at her arm so she had been distracted and the cardigan must have fallen in the bag without her noticing.

The Prosecutor and Legal Advisor then asked her some questions about what happened. Mrs Jones had to answer them truthfully. Next the magistrates went outside to decide if she was guilty or not. What do you think? Was Mrs Jones guilty or not?

Everyone had lots of fun playing the roles and learnt a lot about the legal systems in our courts.

By Molly Steven and Abi Tidball

