

Report of work undertaken and committed between 1st April
2009 and March 2010 in relation to the "Brian the Bull"
project.

Schools involved:

Brookside Primary School Clitheroe 32 pupils
Daisyfield Primary School Blackburn 32 pupils
Lower Place Primary School Rochdale 30 pupils
St Mary's RC Primary School Osbaldeston 26 pupils
St Michael and St John's Primary School Clitheroe 32 pupils
Hapton Primary School 26 pupils
Pendle Primary School Clitheroe 45 pupils
St James CE Primary School Clitheroe 35 pupils
Whalley CE Primary School 40 pupils
Padiham Green Primary 26 pupils
St Mary's RC Primary Langho 60 pupils
Hyndburn Park Primary School Accrington 60 pupils
St Charles RC Primary Rishton 30 pupils
St John the Baptist Primary School Padiham 30 pupils
Padiham County Primary 30 pupils
St Anne's RC Primary Blackburn 32 pupils

Total Number of children involved in Years 5 or 6 - 536

Work undertaken

All schools have received:

Initial visit to discuss the project;

Half a day visit to show the DVD and give information regarding the line and the journey to be undertaken followed by questions. Followed by a session showing railway items used on the railway, comparing and contrasting.

Full day accompanying the school on the railway journey including time spent at Blackburn Station where 2 children made the train announcements. The visits

have been to Blackburn Museum and Cathedral or Clitheroe Castle and Museum or Whalley Viaduct.

All pupils have received a Brian the Bull activity sheet with customised time table for their nearest station. Northern have continued to generously support this initiative and the partnership with First Bus Rail Replacement has been very successful in providing free bus travel to Blackburn for schools which are not close to a station.

All the schools receive a copy of the Brian the Bull Education Pack and DVD to use with other classes or in future years

Work undertaken by schools following the railway journey

At Brookside School the class gave a presentation in assembly about the project and the journey to Blackburn. Follow up work was based on journeys looking at routes and different forms of transport. Artwork involved colour block painting of trains.

Daisyfield developed a science/ design technology project on bridges seen on the railway. Testing the strength of different materials.

Padiham Green linked their work to the book *The Railway Children*. They have recently been on an archaeological dig on ground close to new Padiham Greenway which is a cycle /walking route on land which was the railway line. They have created a mini museum where their finds are on display for the rest of the school to view.

St James School produced a large collage of a train with views from the windows.

St Anne's RC Blackburn is evacuating the class by train to Whalley School as part of their work on World War 2. The evacuees will be billeted with the Whalley children for the day. A week later the children from Whalley will travel to St Anne's to join in the VE Day celebrations.

St Mary's RC are producing some poetry about the rail journey and the views from the train.

All schools produced a record of their journey some photographic, many pictorial

Items introduced the year

A link has been established with First Bus Replacement who has offered to provide a bus per month free of charge to transport the children to and from the station. This has proved very useful for the schools in Padiham and Rochdale. They have also supplied Bus Safety leaflets for the children.

Each child has been given a Manchester- Clitheroe timetable and a Network Rail Safety leaflet.

Some mathematics has been introduced during the presentation on using the 24hour clock and linking it to the timetable for the line.

Discussions have been held with BT Police to link with their work on the safety aspect of rail travel.

A Brian the Bull leaflet has been given to every pupil, which includes a school specific timetable, items to look for from the train etc. (see attachment)

An appraisal form is given to every school at the end of the project and the responses have been very positive.

A flowchart was produced to give some ideas as to where the "Brian the Bull Project" linked to Key Stage 2 of the National Curriculum (see attachment)

In May 2009 an exhibition, of art produced by primary pupils from the schools in Clitheroe, was held over Community Rail Weekend in the Platform Gallery in Clitheroe. The work was based on 'Through a Train Window' and depicted scenes from the Blackburn - Clitheroe Line. The Gallery funded a vinyl for a notice board of selection of the paintings, which greets the passengers when they get off the trains. This involved around 200 children.

Meet Me at the Station Project

Ribble Valley Rail, one of the partners on the CLCRP has secured funding for an "artist in residence" to work in some of the schools involved in the project to produce a range of art week on the theme "Meet me at the Station". This work will be on display in the Platform Gallery for three weeks and a permanent piece of art will be produced to enhance the station. This project will cost in the region of £3,500.

Brian the Bull has proved to be a very effective tool in highlighting the value and importance of rail travel in the life of local communities. There has been some re-thinking, by the schools, on ways of taking children on visits . Train fares are much cheaper than coach hire.

Will the work ever stop? The project is proving a huge success and schools are now approaching us to be involved.