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Education

Sleepover fun



CRAFTY: Beth Roskell, Emma Roskell, Scarlett Aspinall at a school camp

By Saiqa Chaudhari
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THERE are plenty of adventures to be enjoyed when school closes. For when the last bell rang at a Westhoughton primary, pupils at The Gates returned a few hours later to enjoy an evening of adventure at a weekend 'school sleepover'. The activity was put on as part of the school's 'Great Gates Expectations'. They spend their weekend learning everything from crafts to camping skills. There was also a treasure hunt and pizza making — all designed to help pupils develop their personal skills

and grow in confidence. The sporting lot at Wigan Athletic also turned up and volunteered their time to play football and cricket with the youngsters. Ronnie Slater, who is the school business manager, said the event had been a huge success — and one the children will remember "for a lifetime." He said: "The day ended outside with a spectacular sunset. "Everyone sat around a camp-fire, roasting marshmallows and sang camp-fire songs provided by the local Brownies. "The children camped in the school hall overnight in sleeping bags and woke in

the morning ready for breakfast. "It was lovely to witness the joy on the children's faces. "This experience will be one they remember for a lifetime." The school uses enrichment activities particularly those involving the great outdoors to enhance children's learning in Forest School-type activities. Recently the school invested in its early years foundation stage outdoor area. Features include a texture kitchen, sandpit and stage. "There is also a gym space which includes a boxing bag and gloves.

Howzat for a game to

ONE of the most obvious signs of the start of summer term is the disappearance of the football and rugby posts, shorter grass, well mown squares and side screens. The cricket season is upon us. But just why does cricket fit the ethos of good schools so well and why should more young people be encouraged to play? Try explaining cricket to aliens. A game for 24, 2 never take part, 13 are on the field and, of those, 3 are in action at any one time. It's obvious, isn't it! Yet it is a great sport for developing aspects of character. There is no doubt that the encounter between bowler and batsman is deeply personal. There is no one else to blame, no one involved except the skills of both players. As



Talking heads

Philip Britton, head of Bolton School boys' division

a ball loops down towards a fielder waiting for the catch the moment is undeniably one of personal challenge. In that way, it is a game where the skills of the individual are very clearly in a spotlight. And there is a very direct link between those skills and practice — the numbers of hours played on the field and in the