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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Child artists transform village phone box

A space rocket, hot air balloon, bus and ferry are the latest objects to be squeezed into Cambridgeshire's tiny yet famous phone box gallery in Prickwillow.

The display is the work of two to four-year-old children from Kings Acremont nursery in Ely, who have been following a theme on transport at school.

The artwork is decorated with photos of the youngsters and quotations which capture their excitement about the project.

The charming and colourful show, which will run until mid-April, provides a fascinating insight into the education of some of the county's youngest children.

The exhibition illustrates the childrens' journey through the realm of transport.

Highlights for the children have included climbing into a postman's van and pulling themselves across the playground on a wheeled rope ferry.

They also made a cardboard car large enough for two to sit in; played in kayaks on dry land and "invented" the wheel.

These practical experiences formed the inspiration for the children's artwork and their ideas were developed further through discussion and work in small groups.

"We separated the theme into four parts: water, land, air and space," said Katherine Buckingham, deputy head of the nursery.

"The children chose which they would work on and put forward ideas for discussion before starting their artwork.

"A great deal of effort went into producing the different parts before it all came together on the day the display was mounted."

The innovative scheme by Prickwillow villagers to turn their red phone box into a space to promote local art and crafts has attracted worldwide attention.

The quirky story has been featured in numerous global publications and the idea has even captured the imagination of radio audiences in Canada and the US.

The gallery is the brainchild of local web producer Nick Edell.

His proposal received enthusiastic backing from Prickwillow Village Council which then purchased the K6 phone box from BT for £1.

In January, a photograph of a giant naked man climbing out of the phone box promised some controversy, while in December a large pair of wings and a host of angels provided a festive treat.

Previous shows have shone a spotlight on a local steel sculptor and a chair craftsman.

To get involved in the project please visit www.thephoneboxgallery.org

For further information and photographs or to schedule an interview please call Nick Edell on 07931 310526 or e-mail Nick at info@thephoneboxgallery.org