

Bridge craze means a contest's on the cards

Hope of inter-school games in wake of club's success

By **Sian Elvin**

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FORGET smartphone apps and computers – pupils in Sevenoaks have decided they would prefer a game of bridge.

Weald Community Primary School is one of the first primary schools in the country to learn the game, with the craze soon set to move to other schools in the area.

And their training was concluded with their first ever annual competition on Friday.

Registered teacher from the West Kent Youth Bridge Committee, Jim Garlinge, who has been playing for 57 years, said: "Weald Primary got in touch as they thought it would be nice to have a bridge club.

Proficiently

"We now have 17 players and they've done really well over the year.

"They can now play quite proficiently."

And these pupils have stuck with the game for six months now since the lunchtime club was set up in January, following the English Bridge Education and Development's Junior Award system through the English Bridge Union, to achieve the first level of competence.

They have now finished the course, and received certificates of achievement on Friday after an extended lesson of playing and appraisal.

They will now advance from the MinibrIDGE to Bronze level.

Mr Garlinge, 77, explained why he thought the children enjoy bridge so much.

"It helps them with numeracy, decision-making, and they learn how to play in a partnership –

they need to be courteous, and learn a gentle etiquette," he said.

"It's a mental sport."

The school is looking to set up interschool competitions in the next academic year after the game is taught to other pupils in the area.



ADVANCED: Weald Community Primary School's lunchtime bridge club



