Epsom Schools Unite for Children in Need

18 November 2024

Schools across Epsom and Ewell, along with Banstead, joined forces to support this year's **Children in Need** appeal, raising impressive amounts through creative and engaging activities.

Danetree Primary School – Guess the Bear's Name

At **Danetree Primary School** in West Ewell, children participated in a range of activities designed to both entertain and educate. Younger pupils in Early Years and Key Stage 1 enjoyed a "guess the name of the teddy" competition, while Key Stage 2 students took on the challenge of guessing the number of objects in a jar, with winners taking home the prize-filled jar.

The school also held a non-uniform day, contributing to a fundraising total expected to exceed £800. Reflecting on the event, Reception Class Teacher **Tracy Willemse** highlighted its broader significance:
"Events like this support teaching children about the importance of charities – how they help people in need and promote community values such as diversity, equality, and inclusion."

The Vale Primary School – Spotty Fun and Coin Trails

Staff and pupils at **The Vale Primary School** embraced a spotty theme, donning polka-dotted outfits for their fundraising efforts. The school organised a variety of activities, including a coin trail created from donations brought in by pupils, and a raffle for Pudsey Bear toys donated by the PTA.

Year 6 pupils enthusiastically sold raffle tickets ahead of the event, with winners announced during a celebratory assembly. Classroom activities also helped pupils learn more about the work of Children in Need. The Vale aimed to raise over £500, a testament to the community's generosity.
"Preparing children as active and empathic citizens is central to our ethos," said Co-Headteacher **Cathy Browne**.

Warren Mead School, Banstead – Make Life Lighter

At **Warren Mead School** in Banstead, the theme "Make Life Lighter" inspired a vibrant day of fun-filled activities. Pupils and staff came dressed in costumes ranging from disco outfits to Pudsey Bear-inspired ensembles. The day began with an energetic assembly featuring a "fizzy drinking challenge," setting the tone for the festivities.

Children participated in a **Pudsey Maths Challenge**, treasure hunts, and group art projects, with a focus on mental health and emotional resilience. Younger pupils enjoyed learning the Piggle-Wiggle dance and taking part in a school disco. An after-school fun run brought together staff, parents, and the local community, rounding off a memorable day.

Assistant Headteacher **Jess Moylan** expressed pride in the school's efforts:
"The smiles and camaraderie displayed throughout the day reflected our commitment to fostering compassion, unity, and resilience." Warren Mead aimed to raise £500, building on the success of previous years.

A Collective Effort

All three schools are part of the **GLF Schools Multi-Academy Trust**, which collectively raised thousands for the cause. The enthusiastic participation and creative approaches from Danetree, The Vale, and Warren Mead highlight the local commitment to supporting those in need, while also instilling important values in the next generation.

Community Spirit Shines

Across Epsom and Ewell, these Children in Need events have shown the power of community spirit, creativity, and compassion, making a real difference for children and families in need.