

KS1 Case Study – Christmas Kindness

Driffield Infant school is a large market town school with a wide, diverse catchment area. The school has a core mission to allow their pupils to 'Learn through Friendship and Fun'. To support this mission the school opted to deliver the Key stage 1 Young Leaders Award (YLA) during the period of September to December 2018 with around 60 year 2 children. The Award culminates in a community focused action project and the young leaders, inspired by their love of Christmas, planned and delivered a series of social action projects to support their community during the season. Inspired by the KS1 YLA resources around 'people in need'. The children used the provided photographs to identify people in their own community who might need help.

“As soon as the children saw the photograph that shows a little boy looking in the fridge for food; there was no stopping them!” – Aimee Try, Class Teacher

As part of the investigation into community needs the children interviewed three different local leaders; the reverend, their headteacher and the regional foodbank coordinator. Group discussions after these interviews led them to identify similar things that each leader had shared and helped them make conclusive links about the qualities that any leader needs. This was made more meaningful by the fact these leaders were people they knew well. From these conclusions the children then identified that they wanted to support their local food bank to support those who may go without during Christmas. They also were keen to understand the way in which the Foodbank operated in their area.

“From that moment we were racing ahead; full of enthusiasm for the project and things moved very quickly.” – Aimee Try, Class Teacher

In addition to the main action project the children also engaged in two further activities. The children wrote cards to people in their own lives who help them and many focused on their school community and the people who serve the school with little expectation of thanks. This actively developed the children's awareness of how everybody in our school has an extremely important role to play.

“We are still seeing the benefits as the children go to the kitchen to thank our cook for their lunch or seek out our caretaker to thank him for particular jobs he has done.” – Sue Thackray, Headteacher

For their main action project, the children decided to help their community by making Christmas hampers for the foodbank. Several students visited their local foodbank where they discussed with Mrs T, the foodbank Coordinator, the needs during the festive season. The children were shocked and inspired as she explained that normally they would expect 10 families to visit each week but during the previous Christmas of 2017 39 families visited in one day.

“We knew that they would need lots of extra donations for this Christmas and we wanted to help because everybody should be able to have a special Christmas.” – KS1 Young Leader

To ensure they received the amount of donations required the children organised a Christmas celebration day. At the beginning of December 2018, the whole school arrived arms full of luxury food donations and gifts, but more importantly dressed in either Christmas PJs or outfits to take part in Christmas activities: playing board games, Christmas storytelling, a 10-minute non-stop sponsored dance-a-thon. Over the coming weeks the schools received hundreds of donations, way beyond their expectation. They filled a whole corridor of the school with Christmas hampers

“We were so pleased to think that some people would have a better Christmas because of us. We were really proud.” – KS1 Young Leader

We learned that even in our small town lots of people need help and that leaders should always be kind and take action to help look after the people around them. We wrote thank you cards to the people who had donated food because leaders should always be polite and respectful too.





