

Hartington School's At It AGAIN!

For the past two terms, all the children of Hartington C of E Primary School have taken part in the Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award, which focuses on the school's Christian values. As part of this award, the children have completed many tasks to help the community and improve school life.

The school's Christian values (Generosity, Trust, Service, Friendship, Compassion and Respect) have all been featured in the tasks: litter picking, spending time with the elderly people in their community, 'Smile Train' project work, a Golden Mile for dementia, the wild flower project, plus many other things. It has been a challenging year as in the current climate, everything they do has had to be Covid secure so that they can keep the wonderful children safe.

This award inspired them to run a 100 laps of our school playground in order to raise awareness and money for Alzheimer's (our chosen charity). They raised £235: a tremendous amount for a small rural school. This also inspired Class 2 to put pen to paper by writing about dementia in the format of a poem.

"The poems written by the children about dementia have been particularly poignant and heart wrenching to hear. This is for me due to recently losing both my parents to this unforgivable illness. The words within their poems always awake strong emotions within me when I listen to the children's performance of sadness, but also of hope. The children are so young but they have demonstrated their empathy and understanding of an illness which effects not just one individual but the whole family." – Mrs Blackwell, Head teacher of the School.

"It was good to see how the children immersed themselves in the award. Young people have

the power to change the world and this award empowered them to serve their community. They showed how they care for others by raising funds for their chosen charity: Dementia." - Mrs Flower, SENTA/ SBO.

They have also been able to restart their AAA (Active Across Ages) sessions where they spend time with the elderly in their community; they usually play sports that are easy for all. Helping their community also comes in the form of entertainment, so they held a performance of Maypole, but danced to modern music to give their performance a twist.

Finally, they planted a wildflower garden. This is part of a village project to encourage more wildlife (like bees which are species who are in decline) to come here and so people can see more local plants in and around the village. They have also linked this to the AAA by encouraging their silver sports (the elderly taking part in the AAA project in their village) to help with the community project. "I think that all the flowers smell nice," – a year 2 pupil at the school was heard to say.

The children are an inspiration to other children around the country. By completing all these fantastic achievements, they have become the heart of the community. They help so many people on a daily basis. These children have the power to change the world for good, and that is certainly what they are doing!

By
CR

