

WEAR IT WILD SCHOOL STORIES



Cranford Park Church of England Primary School is a fairly small school of 210 pupils in Yateley, Hampshire. It was Deputy Headteacher Georgina Edwards, and her Eco-Organiser, who registered for the Wear It Wild event.



"We weren't involved in any other WWF event at the time, and if I am honest it was primarily because of my own interest in the subject that made us register. We study the rainforest and endangered species every year in my class, and as we were going for the Bronze Eco School award it seemed a good time to spread the message throughout the school."

The school raises funds regularly and the WWF event came at just the right time. Year 6 had just finished their SATS and Mrs Edwards decided it was a good opportunity for them to focus on something new.

They helped to plan the fundraising activities and how the day would be run. Mrs Edwards also organised an assembly to introduce the event to the pupils and staff, to raise awareness and to promote the importance of the event.





Each class took an endangered species and undertook a project on it. They shared their research with the rest of the school, making it meaningful and putting it in context for the younger children.

The activities on the day included animal Olympics, where there was jumping, throwing and running. There was face painting and a competition for the best-dressed animal. Everybody at the school took part, including pupils and staff. Parents were not directly involved on the day but were hugely supportive of the fundraising and organisation.





Mrs Edwards felt that the event managed to make an impact on many of the subjects they study, particularly geography and science. But they also completed lots of art activities based around the topic.

Most of the children have a natural empathy for animals and their plight and they were all left very sad about what they learned about endangered animals.

"The older ones were angry and now feel that they can make a difference with what they have learned. At least half are really passionate about the subject and were still coming back weeks later with information and facts they had discovered."

"We managed to integrate the subject into our school day in numerous ways. We found ways to develop the children's literacy skills, research skills, computer skills, presentation (communication and language), maths (decline, comparison, data handling, timing, measuring) and geography knowledge (where the animals lived, food chain, environment). It was a great fit with the whole curriculum."



