

Fairtrade Devon

Choose products with the FAIRTRADE mark

Ilington – first Primary school in Devon to be awarded the Fairtrade School Award



During the Fairtrade schools conference in Bovey Tracey held during Fairtrade fortnight 2009, four pupils from Ilington primary school gave a presentation that provided some clues as to what schools need to do to achieve the coveted Fairtrade Schools Award. Here are some extracts from what they said.

Quin

We try to buy in as many FAIRTRADE ingredients as possible into our school for our lessons. For example, FAIRTRADE cooking ingredients for cookery lessons, breakfast club, snack stalls for both children and teachers and FAIRTRADE cotton for textiles.

We only became a FAIRTRADE school last September after our efforts from the previous year and we have worked hard to continue building on what we have developed so far.

However, there are many more activities we

can do in the future to raise awareness in our school and we are really interested in joining up with other local schools, to complete and share fun projects together. If any schools are interested, please e-mail our FAIRTRADE TEAM at our school admin e-mail address and we will contact you.

Aiden

We are the FAIRTRADE TEAM at Ilington Primary school and we have recently been awarded the FAIRTRADE SCHOOL AWARD. We would like to take this opportunity to present a few of the things we have done in our school to support FAIRTRADE.

We invited a tea farmer from Africa to our school to come and talk to us about his job and how he grows and sells his tea. He let some of our classes join in on tea tasting activities. We found this link through the Global Centre in Exeter. We really enjoyed meeting a real African worker and were able to ask him many questions about FAIRTRADE and how it works.

When we hold events in our school, it is our job to get in contact with the local newspaper to come in take photos of our events. This is a really good way of spreading the word about the importance of FAIRTRADE and we try to do something every term.

We also live very near to the local Co-op which was one of the first stores to start selling FAIRTRADE products. We have organised for classes to visit this store, where they can learn about FAIRTRADE products that are available in real life and not just from pictures. The staff at the Co-op were very friendly and organised little activities for us and also a shop tour which was lots of fun!

We are always looking for new ideas and always thinking of ways we can improve as a school. We are currently thinking about improving our school website to include some of these activities that we have done so we can help spread the word.

Isobel

The FAIRTRADE TEAM is a good little team, which also has members of the school council in. This is really useful because we can make quick decisions together about events we can hold.

Our teachers also teach us about FAIRTRADE through either lessons or assemblies. These really help us to understand what FAIRTRADE means and is also good for asking lots of questions that we might have. We collect pieces of work that we do in our classes in one big whole school folder, so we can show evidence of our learning. This really helped us achieve FAIRTRADE status.

This year we went BANANAS!! As a school, we decided that we would try and eat over 100 bananas during our break time. This was not only a way of supporting FAIRTRADE but also a great way to eat some of our 5 a day! We managed to eat 124 bananas!

We have also taken part in national competitions. For example, Divine Chocolate held a national poetry competition to write a poem using any style that was about FAIRTRADE chocolate. We also hold our own competitions inside school that we set up just for fun. For example, Fairtrade quizzes, word searches and colouring competitions.

Laura

Last year, we did a FAIRTRADE tuck shop. Children in year 5 and 6 ran a stall during our break times, to sell to children who wanted to eat a small healthy snack. This was very successful and we will start one up again next September.

Every time we cook, we always try to use as many FAIRTRADE ingredients as possible. We can't buy all FT ingredients, but every little helps.

We also have invited local farmers from Dartmoor into our school to explain what FAIRTRADE means to us locally. We always associate FT with other third world countries which we know is very important, but we can also support our own local farmers too, by buying meat that is produced locally. Not only does this make sure that our farmers have work and can look after our lands and animals, but because the food is so close to us, it is very fresh and tastes even better.

We have also done things like hold tea mornings for our parents at breakfast club and some classes have had traditional cream tea afternoons, where children made their own scones with FT ingredients and served them up with FT tea to their parents.