

# DOWNSEND SCHOOL, ASHTEAD PRE-PREP CASE STUDY



Headteacher Tessa Roberts, from Downsend Pre-Prep in Ashted sat down with our Community Ambassador Donna to have a chat about how Stripey Stork has had an impact on her school and its pupils.

The school initially heard about Stripey Stork from a parent who works as a health visitor and had seen the valuable work we do first hand. The parents were keen to support a cause in the community and Stripey Stork appealed to them because of the help we give to local families.

Tessa explained, “supporting Stripey Stork has helped to strengthen the school’s values and increase awareness of what charity means. Before, if pupils had heard of charity, they tended to think of it as giving money, which can be very abstract for children”. She went on to explain how concepts such as critical reasoning skills and developing empathy for others, whilst crucial, can be difficult to teach. The staff at Downsend embraced this partnership and were inspired to find ways to teach their pupils about these ideas. Stripey Stork was also a regular topic of discussion in assemblies, where they talked about the work we do and the different ways in which the school could help. They created a lovely charity board to display information about our charity whilst also keeping everyone updated with news.

The first activity they organised was a **book donation event**. Children were asked to wear stripes for the day and bring books that they no longer needed into school. They also used their creative talents by designing a certificate to go with the donated books. Teachers explained to the children that Stripey, who had a blast visiting the school, would give the books to children who were less fortunate than them, giving them an opportunity to talk about charity in a very tangible way. Tessa explained that the book donation really helped children to understand the concept of giving whilst also realising that there are children who don’t have the same opportunities as them.



The school also held a very successful **donation event**, asking parents to bring in any toys, clothing and equipment that they no longer needed. Parents were delighted to be able to have a clear out, and for their children to be on board with this, whilst supporting families who are less fortunate.

As part of the school's Get Active Week, a creative member of staff came up with the idea of a **Stripey Storkathon!** The children had a fantastic time, completing an obstacle course whilst wearing their "go faster stripes" and raising money for Stripey Stork at the same time.

In addition to all the above, Downsend have kindly donated the proceeds from collections taken at their various school events throughout the year.

*We'd like to thank Tessa, all the teachers at Downsend Ashted Pre-Prep, the parents and their children, who have really got behind our cause, whilst raising awareness and vital funds for Stripey Stork. Your enthusiasm and creative thinking is inspirational to your pupils and other schools looking to support a charity in their local community. If you work in a school or nursery and are looking to support a local charity, we'd love to discuss how we can work together, Donna is waiting to hear from you - [partnerships@stripeystork.org.uk](mailto:partnerships@stripeystork.org.uk).*

