Fairtrade and Hope For Christmas

Three Pembrokeshire schools have been helping to bring hope and fairness this Christmas time.

Tavernspite County Primary, Tenby Juniors and St Oswald's schools invited Sharron Hardwick, Fair Trade Wales School's Speaker and Tearfund Media Officer, to share a Christmas Assembly.

The schools watched Tearfund's *Hope For Christmas* film, featuring a family in Nepal: Sarita, Raju and their two children, eleven year-old Usa and Kusal, who's six. They, similar to Mary, Joseph and Jesus, found refuge sleeping outside other people's homes. The Mother, Sarita, said "We felt like outcasts."

Now, thanks to Tearfund's work, Raju's family have found hope, a life blessed with knowing the fullness of God, through the support of the local church and Tearfund Partners in Nepal. They and others like them have become part of the local Church, gained training and helped to build a better future, including new homes, for themselves and their families.

During the three assemblies the whole school prayed for Tearfund's work and that they would be instruments of hope for others this Christmas time. Each school were given a set of Tearfund gift tags to fill in with a message and prayer for the Nepalese families. These will be filled in by the children and sent off to Nepal via Tearfund Head Office.

To conclude the assembly Sharron encouraged the children to consider celebrating a Fairtrade Christmas. She showed a Fairtrade Christmas tree decorated with the five main points that items bearing the Fairtrade logo guarantee: Safe work conditions and fair wages, no forced or child labour; using the best methods for the environment, whilst providing a community premium to be spent in their local area on whatever is needed.

"I'd like to thank Tavernspite CP, Tenby Juniors and St Oswalds for their support and commitment to fairness. This Christmas time what better way to celebrate than to buy food and gifts which guarantee fairness for families; and pray together that people can build a new life of hope." shared Sharron.

For More information visit www.tearfund.org and www.fairtradewales.com

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