

Tavernspite Kick Off Fair Trade Football Challenge

Tavernspite County Primary School has taken up a Fair Trade football challenge, after a return visit from Voluntary Fair Trade Wales School's Speaker, Sharron Hardwick. During a whole school assembly Sharron shared some football facts, noting the vast expanse between the meagre 22p wages paid to some football stichers per ball, compared to other football workers. Reporting on her own above average wage received working for Stoke City FC; large fees paid for players like Stoke's recent 10 million signing, Peter Crouch; with players like Wayne Rooney paid a rumoured £120,000 per week.

"Fair Trade and football are often not linked. Working for a Premier League Football club makes me feel even more responsible for speaking out about the unfair wages paid to football stichers. We must act, support and buy Fair Trade in football; otherwise this unfairness will continue unnoticed." said Sharron Hardwick

The Fair Trade Wales assembly, and a year 2 lesson, taught the difference that Fair Trade makes. Fair Trade helps communities by providing premiums, monitors working conditions and practices, ensures fair pay - giving a living wage so workers and producers can afford accommodation, health care and school fees; meaning children can go to school, rather than working to bridge the deficit.

"I'm so impressed with the dedication of all at Tavernspite School. They are a school with a heart for fairness, leading the way for other schools to follow. The pupils in my year 2 lesson, listened and responded beautifully; producing some moving posters depicting the difference Fair Trade makes." continues Sharron

Mrs Julie Houghton, Year 2 teacher, has worked hard leading Tavernspite School to achieve its recent Fair Trade School status. Tavernspite are now the first School to take up this challenge, with football now high on their Fair Trade agenda, through Fair Trade football tournaments and the hope to purchase more Fairtrade balls immanent.

Sharron has high hopes of promoting Fair Trade in football, supported by Fair Trade Wales and Relief and Development Aid Agency *Tearfund*. Plans are to ask Pembrokeshire and Stoke-On-Trent schools, Church groups and amateur football clubs to support the Fair Trade in Football campaign and use Fairtrade Footballs. She wants to thank Stoke City, reporting that they use lots of Fair Trade certified products in catering at their training ground facilities, and hopes to ask them to use and promote Fair Trade in their football, where possible, and elsewhere at the club.

If enough support is generated, Sharron will approach the Football Association asking them to consider using Fairtrade balls. The F.A. control which balls are used by football clubs in their games.

"I have a dream to see 100% Fair Trade in football. This is a massive challenge! Local teams like Kilgetty A.F.C, Haverfordwest County and Tenby A.F.C have shown interest; now local schools are getting on board. I hope support will grow, and our desire for fairness is heard." concludes Sharron.

For information or to receive a Fair Trade Wales Schools visit:
schools@fairtradewales.com www.fairtradewales.com

Purchase Fairtrade footballs: www.thefaircorp.com

Sign an online petition asking the FA to support Fair Trade in football:
www.change.org/petitions/make-football-fair-trade



