

## *Pyjama Day for Wycombe Homeless Connection and The Night Shelter*

Our Pyjama Day emerged not from a top-down initiative, but from the ideas, compassion and leadership of our children. It began with a simple conversation on Children in Need Day. A few children had come to school in onesies for Children in Need, and we laughed together about how wonderful it would be to have a day where everyone could wear their pyjamas. As we talked, the excitement grew - pyjamas are fun, cosy and joyful - but with my headteacher hat on, I gently challenged the group to think more deeply. If we were going to do something like this, could it be purposeful as well as fun?

That question sparked thoughtful reflection. The children quickly recognised something they had previously taken for granted: we are fortunate not only to have fabulous pyjamas, but also warm beds and safe homes to sleep in. From there, the idea transformed. Immediately, the children suggested a Pyjama Day in support of people experiencing homelessness. They wanted to raise awareness and funds, and they wanted the day to stand for something meaningful.

The children worked together to choose the charities they wanted to support. They researched **Wycombe Homeless Connection** and **The Night Shelter** in High Wycombe and shared what they had learnt with their classmates. They explained how Wycombe Homeless Connection works to prevent homelessness, support people to regain independence, and offer dignity, practical help and hope to those in crisis. They also talked about the Night Shelter's vital role in providing a safe, warm place to sleep during the coldest months, offering not just shelter but care, hospitality and human connection. The children were particularly moved by the idea that a bed, warmth and safety - things so ordinary to them - could make such a profound difference to someone else.

It was the children who suggested extending the project beyond fundraising to include donations of warm clothing. They organised this themselves, encouraging kindness, generosity and action across the school community. They spoke with confidence and conviction, helping others to understand why this mattered.

On the day itself, the school was filled with pyjamas, warmth and joy - but also with purpose. Thanks to the children's leadership, we raised **£320** for Wycombe Homeless Connection and The Night Shelter. More importantly, we lived out who we are as a school. This was outreach in action: noticing injustice, responding with compassion, and taking responsibility to bring about change.

I could say "the rest is history", but in truth, *the rest is Aston Rowant School*. This is what our children do. They take our values seriously. They turn reflection into action. And they model courageous advocacy every day - not because they are asked to, but because it has become part of who they are.



**GRATITUDE    RESILIENCE    OUTREACH    WONDER    TRUST    HARMONY**

*Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:7)*