



28 November

Stars in our schools – celebration day

Ideas for schools - how to celebrate ‘Stars in our Schools’

It takes a whole team to make a school a safe and happy place for children to learn. But many of those staff are tucked away behind the scenes – the unsung heroes of our children’s education.

UNISON is taking a day to celebrate the great work they do. Join us on 28 November by putting on an event or activity at your school. The ideas below might give you some inspiration. Please let us know your plans by tweeting @UNISONinSchools or emailing education@unison.co.uk.

Give children an opportunity to get to know school support staff better

- Invite all support staff to join the children for a special lunch – include cleaners, ground staff and other ‘hidden’ staff.
- Make time for kitchen and lunch staff to join the children and talk about the food they eat and why it matters.
- Hold a quiz for children about what school support staff do.
- Get children to help support staff for a day – for example keeping the playground clean, helping to set the lunch tables, older children helping younger ones with reading, painting or writing.
- Hold a circle time session highlighting the difference support staff make to the school.
- Hold a special assembly featuring video interviews with different members of support staff.

Make a big fuss of school support staff

- Feature support staff members in your school newsletter e.g. ‘a day in the life of...’
- Ask pupils to nominate the best member of the support staff and have an awards ceremony or special assembly to announce the winners.
- Run a competition along the theme “How do our support staff make our school better”. This could include art, poetry, dance, singing etc.
- Ask children to write a story about the different support staff at school.
- Ask children to make a card, poster or small piece of writing about how they appreciate their support staff.
- Ask parents to come into school for a special ceremony or assembly where support staff are honoured. Parents could bake a celebratory cake.
- Give support staff a special break time with tea and scones.
- Make support staff VIPs for the day.
- Ask teachers to cover playground duties for support staff for the day.
- Collect pupils’ comments about support staff and include them in a thank-you card, or in a word-cloud certificate.

28 November

Stars in our schools – celebration day

UNISON
the public service union

Make sure everyone knows how important school support staff are

- Write to your local newspaper to let them know you're celebrating school support staff on 28 November.
- Take a photo of all the support staff and put it on a noticeboard that all children and parents can see.
- Put a message on the school TV about how wonderful the support staff are!
- Contact your Parent-Teacher Association and ask them to get involved. Invite them to the school's celebration.
- Contact your governors and ask them to get involved. Invite them to the school's celebration.
- Invite your MP, local councillor or mayor to your special event so they can see how important school support staff are.
- Use your Twitter and Facebook accounts to promote the day.

Just for fun

- Hold a face-painting competition.
- Ask staff and pupils to dress up as super-heroes for the day.

