

Achievements

A very special Teaching Assistant at Ticehurst and Flimwell Primary School

Maggie Sharpe, Headteacher Ticehurst and Flimwell CE Primary School, told Children's Trust Express about Alison Turk, South East Regional winner of the Teaching Assistant of the Year.

"Mrs. Alison Turk is a teaching assistant 'extraordinaire', which is why she won the final of the South East Regional 'Teaching Assistant of the Year' awards on June, 24, 2007.

So what makes Alison so special? All our teaching assistants at the school are special. They do a wonderful job and make a huge difference to the lives of the children in our school. Alison is part of that team, but she has a drive and an enthusiasm that permeates every part of school life. She always smiles! It does not matter what kind of day we are having, she keeps spirits up with her positive outlook to life.

She looks for solutions, instead of creating problems. She is creative and manages to 'think outside the box', giving the children opportunities to flourish and enjoy their time at our school. She works in 'Neptune's Kingdom', our Nurture Group and she is not afraid to risk making a fool of herself by dressing up on occasions, to make the children laugh. In the past she has been a furry cool cat, a lifeboat lady, a teddy boy and a fearsome headmistress!

We can't wait for the National 'Teaching Awards' Ceremony at the London Palladium on October 21 which Alison will attend with her family, my Deputy Headteacher and I. We wish Alison every success at having achieved so much. We are so proud of her at having got this far."

Do you - or your organisation, group or school - know someone very special who helps to improve the lives of children or young

people? If so, why not tell Children's Trust Express about their achievements and what makes them special and fantastic?

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Healthy schools ahead of targets

Almost all schools in East Sussex have now signed up to the national 'Healthy Schools' programme (the government target is to get all schools involved by 2009) and 64% have now achieved the new, more exacting, 'Healthy Schools Status' which means that East Sussex has already exceeded the national and local target of 55% of schools qualifying for the award by December 2007.

The news coincides with the on-going drive to improve school meals and a new school meals contract with the Council that will guarantee healthier lunches, giving children half of their five recommended portions of fruit and vegetables a day.

To qualify for the 'Healthy School Status', a school must collect and present evidence under all four of the programme's themes: Personal, Social and Health education, Emotional Health and Well Being, Healthy Eating and Physical Activity. And they must also demonstrate how they involved the whole school community in the initiative.

By 2009, the Government requires that all schools should be working towards the National Healthy School Status, as the key indicator of which schools are meeting the health and well being requirements of the 'Every Child Matters' Children Act. For more, visit www.healthyschools.gov.uk/