



International Women's Day 2022

Marked annually on March 8th, International Women's Day (IWD) is one of the most important days of the year to:

- celebrate women's achievements
- raise awareness about women's equality
- lobby for accelerated gender parity
- fundraise for female-focused charities

We would love you to help us start encouraging the community of Yeovil to celebrate International Women's Day each year. There are three ways we are asking people to get involved, and you can join in with all three or pick and choose how you and your students are able to take part. We are also approaching local businesses and organisations to participate!

#PaintTheTownPurple

While we don't condone unsolicited graffiti or "spontaneous urban redecorating", we are hopeful people will join us in decorating our spaces and ourselves with this bright and cheery colour. How many purple things can younger students find in their classroom – maybe they could do a kind of treasure hunt and then display the found items on a topic table? You could decorate your classroom with purple things, make purple artwork; there are so many possibilities! We're also asking people to wear purple where possible, which can be as subtle as a purple hair accessory, or completely head-to-toe with full face paint.

#CelebratingWomenInYeovil

We're inviting people to celebrate the awesome women in our community. You could ask your students to nominate members of staff to be celebrated for their contributions to school life. Why not give them a shout out on your school's social media accounts (make sure you tag us!), or have a special assembly? Another fun activity is to have someone describe the positive qualities and work duties of a female staff member, and have children guess who they are talking about. This can be staff or student led! Challenge older students not to use any physical descriptions, but have this as a way of helping guide younger children to the answer.



#SupportingWomenInYeovil

Join our fundraising effort for our local women's refuge, which is run by The YOU Trust. The YOU Trust does a lot of great work but we have arranged for the money we raise on IWD to be earmarked and fed directly to the women's refuge in our town, instead of just a general donation to support the overall charity. We'd love your help to make as much of a difference for vulnerable women and their families as possible. Many schools ask for donations for muffin days as a way of raising money for charity and you could do this alongside asking the children to wear purple for the day. Alternatively, you could let your parents know in advance that you'll be having a collection at the beginning and/or end of the school day. Feel free to contact us if you need any further information or have any questions around fundraising with us.

While we hope these activities and the sharing of positivity and celebration are their own reward, we also have three book bundles to give away, with reading ages of approximately 5-8, 8-12 and 12-16. Check out our website for a breakdown of all the titles that we're offering. The prizes are yours to do with as you wish - add them to your school library, give them as gifts to the students who made the most effort to celebrate IWD2022, or even raffle them off at your next tombola! Whatever you feel would benefit your school the most. We will award a book bundle each to the three schools we think have best entered into the spirit of International Women's Day, so make sure you let us know what your school got up to by tagging us on social media or emailing us for your chance to win.