At Boundary Oak School, every January brings a tradition that embodies the spirit of giving: pupils vote for three charities to support as part of the school's Kindness Counts initiative. This idea encourages pupils to think beyond themselves and work together to make a difference in the lives of others. For 2025, the chosen charities—WWF, Dog's Trust, and Honeypot Young Carers Children's Charity—reflected the school's commitment to both global and local causes. Honeypot, in particular, resonated deeply within our community as it supports young carers, including six families within our school.

Inspired by this cause, the Charity Club began to brainstorm how they could rally the school around this important mission. Meeting every Tuesday, they created the idea for a bee-themed fundraiser called Buzz for a Cause. The theme celebrated both the school's own Boundary Oak Bees, affectionately known as "Bobs," and the Honeypot charity's name. The goal was not just to raise money, but to raise awareness and foster a sense of community. The entire school came together to show their care for young carers, proving that even the smallest acts of kindness can create the sweetest impact.

The planning for Buzz for a Cause began as soon as the charities were selected in January. The Charity Club quickly took the lead, coming up with creative ideas and ensuring that every pupil could contribute. Different clubs across the school were enlisted to help prepare for the event, ensuring everyone could use their unique talents. Crochet Club worked tirelessly to create hundreds of adorable little bees, while Ceramics Club designed bee-themed pots and miniature bees. Eco Club used beeswax from the school's own beehives to craft candles, Cooking Club baked honey biscuits, and Computer Science Club designed 3D-printed bumblebee bookmarks.

In early March, just days before Young Carers In Action Day, Viv from the Honeypot charity visited the school to officially launch the event. Alongside the Charity Club and Honeypot's cheerful mascot, Bumble, Viv's visit energised the pupils and highlighted the importance of supporting young carers. The event itself took place on March 12th, featuring a range of activities and stalls. Highlights included an 'Adopt-A-Bee' station, a "Selfie Station" with Bumble, and the hosting of special tea parties for the school's young carers and their families.

The school community worked hard to ensure the event was as impactful as possible while keeping costs low. Materials for crafting and baking were sourced at minimal cost (under £30), with most of the budget allocated to craft supplies, printing posters, and tea party decorations.

Fundraising efforts centred on selling the handmade items created by the pupils, with donations pouring in from families and supporters. The 'Adopt-A-Bee' stall proved to be a favourite, with pupils and parents alike eager to contribute. By the end of the event, £482 had been raised—a remarkable achievement that showcased the power of collective effort and generosity—with additional funds still being counted in the days that followed.

Charity Club members worked tirelessly to create excitement for Buzz for a Cause. They designed colourful posters featuring cheerful bees and catchy slogans, which were displayed throughout the school. Assemblies led by the Charity Club helped pupils

understand the importance of Honeypot's work, while interactive trails around the school added an element of fun.

Social media was also used to share updates, including photos of pupils crafting their items and preparing for the event. Viv's visit from Honeypot and the presence of Bumble, the charity mascot, added a personal touch that brought the mission to life. These efforts ensured that the entire school community felt connected to the event, creating a genuine buzz of anticipation.

The Buzz for a Cause event was a resounding success, raising over £500 for the Honeypot Young Carers Children's Charity. However, the event wasn't just about fundraising—it was about creating a lasting change in attitudes towards young carers. Assemblies, interactive trails, and social media posts educated pupils on the challenges young carers face. The buzz spread beyond our school, with families, local businesses, and the wider community getting involved.

Viv, Honeypot's Community Engagement Manager, shared just how much the event meant:

"The total received from this event, over £500, is enough to provide a 3-day/2-night residential respite break at Honeypot House for a young carer. This is an annual event that all Honeypot young carers look forward to....it is the light at the end of the tunnel that keeps them going during difficult times looking after someone they love. The children bounce, swing, skateboard, go to the beach and other outings, laugh (a lot!), sleep well, eat yummy food and generally have a super time!"

The smiles on the faces of young carers during the event, the creativity displayed in every handcrafted bee, and the countless hours of dedication from pupils and staff all reflected the heart of this project. Whether crocheting, baking, or promoting the event, every contribution mattered. Each act of kindness, no matter how small, added up to a powerful message: young carers are valued, appreciated, and celebrated.

Moving forward, the Charity Club has already planned their next steps. They will visit Honeypot's safe haven house in the New Forest to see firsthand how the funds are being used. Pupils will donate their time to help decorate parts of the house and plant gardens, ensuring the space remains a sanctuary for young carers. Honeypot's work reminds us all that while money can help, it is the time, care, and effort we give that truly makes a difference.