

## ***Assembly Speeches***

### **Primary Schools**

HELLO.

(SPEAKER HOLDS UP A LARGE WOODEN SPOON)

IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, I'M NOT HERE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT COOKERY.

I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT WOODEN SPOON – RUGBY'S SPECIAL CHARITY.

#### **WHAT IS WOODEN SPOON?**

WOODEN SPOON WORKS TO SUPPORT PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY AND SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AND NOT BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF BED BECAUSE YOUR LEGS AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH?

WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO SIT AT THE BREAKFAST TABLE AND NOT BE ABLE TO EAT BECAUSE YOU CAN'T LIFT YOUR ARMS?

WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO LIVE IN POVERTY WITH NOT ENOUGH TO EAT?

WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO BE ABUSED BY THE PEOPLE WHO SHOULD LOOK AFTER YOU?

WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO BE HIV POSITIVE OR ADDICTED TO DRUGS?

WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE WATCH A RUGBY MATCH KNOWING YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PLAY THE GAME?

WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE? I DON'T KNOW. BECAUSE EVEN AN OLD MAN LIKE ME CAN DO ALL THOSE THINGS AND I HAVE NEVER SUFFERED FROM POVERTY OR ABUSE. BUT A LOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE CAN'T DO THESE THINGS AND FOR SOME THEY DO LIVE IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES - THEY'RE THE PEOPLE WE NEED TO HELP.

#### **NOW YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY WE'RE CALLED WOODEN SPOON. SO LET ME TELL YOU HOW IT ALL BEGAN...**

*A wonderful and enduring legacy emerged in 1983 after England's rugby team were defeated by the Irish. Drowning their sorrows in a Dublin bar, five travelling English fans were presented with a wooden spoon by the victorious Irish to symbolise a winless Five Nations Championship.*

WHAT DO THE TEAM WHO COME LAST WIN? *(hold up large wooden spoon to audience)* A SPOON LIKE THIS, A WOODEN SPOON)

SO THE RUGBY SUPPORTERS FROM DUBLIN ORGANISED A FUN GAME OF GOLF. THE WINNERS WOULD RECEIVE THEIR LITTLE WOODEN SPOON AND THAT WOULD BE THE END OF IT.

WELL IT WASN'T. IN FACT, IT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING - THE BEGINNING OF A NEW CHARITY- THE BEGINNING OF WOODEN SPOON.

AND SINCE THOSE HUMBLE BEGINNINGS WOODEN SPOON HAS RAISED OVER TWELVE MILLION POUNDS! THAT'S RIGHT, TWELVE MILLION. THIS MONEY HAS BEEN USED TO SUPPORT OVER 250 PROJECTS AND HELPED MORE THAN 500,000 CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

## **WHO DO WE HELP?**

WE HELP CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY...

WE HELP CHILDREN WITH EPILEPSY...

WE HELP CHILDREN WITH DOWNS SYNDROME...

WE HELP CHILDREN WITH AUTISM...

WE HELP BLIND CHILDREN...

WE HELP DEAF CHILDREN ...

WE HELP THOUSANDS OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

WHICH MEANS: CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN POVERTY, CHILDREN WITH ONE OR PERHAPS NO PARENTS, CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN ABUSED, CHILDREN WHO MAY BE PERPETRATORS OR VICTIMS OF CRIME, CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS MAY BE DRUG ADDICTS OR WHO MAY BE ADDICTED THEMSELVES, CHILDREN WHO NEED EXTRA CARE AND SUPPORT TO DEVELOP A POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON LIFE.

LAST YEAR ALONE, WE RAISED OVER £1,500,000 AND ARE NOW SUPPORTING OVER 50 DIFFERENT PROJECTS.

## **NOW I BET SOME OF YOU ARE PROBABLY THINKING 'WHAT'S ALL THIS GOT TO DO WITH ME'?**

I'M HERE TO ASK YOU IF YOU CAN DO A LITTLE TO HELP US HELP CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT AS FORTUNATE AS YOU ARE.

YOU CAN HELP CHILDREN LIKE THIS AND WOODEN SPOON BY RAISING MONEY. THIS MONEY WILL BE SPENT IMPROVING THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE IN ALL SORTS OF WAYS ...

...WITH MINIBUSES, SPECIALISED PLAY AREAS AND MOBILE LIBRARIES, HYDROTHERAPY POOLS, MEDICAL AND THERAPY SUITES, SENSORY GARDENS AND MORE.

WHAT I'M ASKING YOU TO DO, IS THINK OF WAYS THAT YOU COULD RAISE MONEY HERE AT (Your School). YOU COULD HAVE A DRESS DOWN DAY, PUT ON A GALA EVENING FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS, DO A SPONSORED WORK, OR WHAT ABOUT A SPONSORED SILENCE, BET THE TEACHERS WOULD LIKE THAT!

MANY SCHOOLS HAVE ALREADY PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT TO FUNDRAISE IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. PLEASE JOIN THEM. EVERY PENNY YOU GIVE TO WOODEN SPOON WILL HELP MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO SOMEONE'S LIFE .

I'D NOW LIKE TO SHOW YOU A SHORT DVD BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS.

WHLE YOU'RE WATCHING THE DVD, I WANT YOU TO THINK OF SOME REALLY GOOD QUESTIONS TO ASK ME AFTERWARDS. AND MAYBE EVEN START COMING UP WITH SOME IDEAS...

## **SPEECH ENDS**

## **PLAY DVDs**

## **Q&A SESSION**