

Cerridwen Gray  
Age 10 14-3-2004  
Cragg Vale School.

Overall Winner

### Light Up My Community

I am having my magic breakfast. I'm having Weetabix and it's delicious. It feels like a long time ago when I think back to when I was often hungry, where all my troubles came to feel too much to handle. I'd come to school every day and be ravenous; I wouldn't be able to concentrate, I'd sit there and listen to all those people who were talking about what they had watched on TV last night or done at the weekend and my stomach was scrunched up with emptiness and I could hardly concentrate enough to listen to them. I'd sit next to my best friend-Ben. He sometimes got breakfast but most of the time he didn't. We were the troublemakers. Sometimes I would just be naughty all the time, but I wasn't trying to be naughty, I just couldn't sit still, couldn't focus, and would feel so on edge that I might just lose it. One day someone who I've never seen before randomly picked out children to chat to. I was the first child picked out the only questions that she asked was if we were hungry at any of the time of the day and what we ate for breakfast and tea. Most children round here would say no to being hungry.



Actually everyone said no I reckon except me and Ben. I was actually quite happy to be pulled out of class since I was having a bad day and it was a spelling test. The woman said I could answer the questions honestly, that no-one would get into trouble and I had been worried as I didn't want my mum to get told off. After she'd asked the questions she went. A few weeks later there was a Magic Breakfast Club in every school in Mytholmroyd. The woman said that the Rotary Club and community had decided to see if they could raise enough money to make sure children didn't go hungry. The club is held in the school hall and local shops donate most of the food. The supermarkets have loads of leftovers they would get rid of otherwise and we get it instead. Mrs May, the English teacher, and 2 children's mums volunteer and the dinner lady of course. She sometimes makes special breakfasts. When it is pancake day she makes scrumptious pancakes-I learnt that word today, see - I'm getting even better at learning since I have been coming here. The adults set breakfast up every morning and we all help tidy the stuff away. Breakfast varies, sometimes toast, sometimes cereal, and always a bit of fruit. I am not



keen on the fruit but I eat it anyway. I always have breakfast every morning and Ben does too. I met lots of other people who didn't get breakfast from other classes and years in my school. I always felt sorry for those people who don't have Magic Breakfast Clubs. Now my mum doesn't have to worry about my breakfasts, and we are much happier now. Sometimes Ben comes to play but he doesn't have dinner he just plays with me and it is really fun because we aren't as hungry we don't fall out as often. At school my teachers say I am doing better too. It's not surprising though is it? It is much easier to listen and to work when you're not starving and hurting in your stomach. The thing that I love about the Magic Breakfast Club is that the whole of the community helped make it happen - they organised it, put funding bids in, raised enough money together to get breakfasts for all those children who were too hungry for school.

By Cerridwen Gray