



CAROLYN HARRIS MP
STANDING UP FOR SWANSEA EAST



Everyone deserves a SUMMER

Wrap Up - 2023

So Many Things To Be Grateful For!

The coming of summer should be joyous. Kids finally putting the final term behind them and getting to enjoy some well-earned free time, enjoying the sun with friends, and parents breathing a sigh of relief as they've got through another school year without losing the plot. But in 2023, the summer holidays throw up a whole new raft of headaches, as families consider how they are going to get by and provide the summer the little ones deserve. What should be a time for making precious memories quickly turns to a source of anxiety and stress in the face of a devastating cost of living crisis.

That is why 8 years ago I launched the 'Everyone Deserves' campaign to tackle holiday hunger across Swansea and the surrounding areas. This summer we received phenomenal support from good causes across the city and our fantastic business community. Thanks to this support we have been able to provide food to breakfast and lunch clubs, children's centres and other groups running holiday activities and over the six weeks, more than 10,000 packed lunches and hot meals were served to children at locations across the city.

We donated to Clase Community Cwtch, Bonymaen Community Cwtch, Blaenymaes Drop In, St Teilos Faith in Families, Bonymaen Kids Play Initiative, Manselton Community Centre, Plasmarl Community Centre, Hafod Primary School, Clwyd Primary School, Jersey Park Pavilion, Primrose Park, Llansamlet Park, Skewen Park, Heol Las and Trallwn Park. We also provided packed lunches for the Swans Soccer Camps, Ospreys' Fit, Fed and Fun camps, Freedom Leisure Penlan, Freedom Leisure Morriston and Neath Port Talbot Council and Neath RFC's 'Party on the Pitch'.

I can't wait to tell you more about it, but first some thank you's! It was my pleasure to announce the launch of Everyone Deserves A Summer 2023 in the Sir David Amess Summer Adjournment Debate, where colleagues from across the country listened, envious of our amazing community here in Swansea, as I read out the list of our supporters and partners, so here goes!

None of this would be possible without the support and donations of these fantastic organisations, companies and individuals: Budget Carpets, Hygrove Homes, Low Cost Vans, Coastal Housing, Greggs Foundation, Peter Lynn Solicitors, Morganstone, J.C.R Wealth, Dawsons, AB Glass, Sinclair Vans, Warburtons, Morrisons, Bidfood, Castell Howell, Hobbs House Bakery, Pure Football Swansea, High Street Car Boot Sale, the Swans, the Ospreys, the WRU, SWPS, The Evening Post, Huw Cooze, Mal Pope and Swansea Council and Council Leader Rob Stewart.



Got to get involved with the sandwich making!



We had a lovely time down at Neath RFC, and had plenty of food to give out thanks to the help of Jeremy



Perks of the job – sneaking a cuddle when you can!



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A special thank you to my political partners Julie James MS, Jeremy Miles MS, and Stephen Kinnock MP for their support, which has meant 'Everyone Deserves' has reached more people than ever.

A final, special thank you to the girls at Mecca Bingo. Jo, Katie and Gaynor gave up their summer to make all the packed lunches that so many kids across the city have enjoyed. Jo even made some beautiful cupcakes that the little ones loved. A big thank you to the amazing team at Mecca Bingo in Swansea for letting us use your kitchen and for being so wonderful. I couldn't be more grateful!

The Highlight Of My Summer

The cherry on top of a wonderful summer was me and my team taking over from the amazing Jersey Park Pavilion volunteers to run their breakfast and lunch club on two occasions. It was such a lovely atmosphere. We had pizza, hot dogs, entertainment by Roly Poly and Cyril the Swan even made an appearance! Thanks to donations by Mecca, we had pencil cases and stationary to give out to the little ones, making sure that they are ready for the new school year.

I am so grateful and humbled to represent such a generous, vibrant and tight-knit community that comes together to support one another for events like that. I was able to give out copies of the Hansard I mentioned our supporters in as thank you's and the Pavilion day marked an end to what had been an amazing summer. You can be safe in the knowledge that when I am in the chamber next, speaking up and representing you, I will be thinking of home, our community and looking forward to next year when we can do it all over again.

But before then we have Christmas, and the team are already preparing for Everyone Deserves A Christmas 2023 and more referrals than ever. I am delighted that we will be reaching more families than ever before, providing hampers to Swansea, Neath, Aberavon, Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent.

Best Wishes,

Carolyn



Our amazing volunteers Katie, Gaynor and Jo – we couldn't do it without them



Pleasure to give out pencil cases and stationary, generously donated by Mecca



The little ones loved seeing Cyril – Roly Poly did a great job