



"A day to remember!" by Miss Callahan Race for Life 2020

For parents, old and new, a little history behind Crazy Callahan. In 2004, I lost the most special lady to walk this earth in my eyes, my Mom. She was diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer and passed away just 8 weeks after diagnosis. My world fell apart. However, she was a big believer in smiling and living every day as if it were your last. I took those words and have hung onto them ever since.

My aim was to make Mom proud, so I started volunteering for Cancer Research UK. I would spend my weekends at Race for Life events, handing out medals and water and then I moved on to running events to raise more money. The Shugborough stride ran for 5 years and was organised from my living room with a bunch of friends and family.

In June 2016, I myself was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 39. I was determined not to feel sorry for myself and to fight it to the bitter end. I underwent chemotherapy, a double mastectomy, radiotherapy, more chemotherapy and a hysterectomy. Throughout my phrase was 'There are people worse off than me, children are having this horrible treatment.' Family, friends and the Greysbrooke community were behind me every step of the way. Whilst my cancer can never be cured it can be effectively managed and treated - I am one of the very lucky ones.

The Greysbrooke community took another blow, when our very own fun loving Mr Berry got diagnosed and unfortunately lost his battle just over a year ago. What an incredible man, there were times when he drove us all insane but he holds a very special place in our hearts and will never be forgotten. His wife and children should be extremely proud of how many children ran for Mr Berry today - he touched and continues to touch many lives.

So... we set out with the target of raising £500. Well we totally smashed that! As I write this letter, the donations keep coming in. I get an email notification every time someone donates which pings on my phone (Thank you to all of those night owls who donated at ridiculous o'clock in the morning waking me). It is



13:39 and the total stands at a whopping £4270 with £884 gift aid and we have £100 in cash at school. A staggering amount for a small village Primary School. Thank you to every Mom, Dad, Aunt, Uncle, Nanny, Grandad, friends and the wider Shenstone community who have donated so generously.

In my eyes - to the stars of today...the children! Every single child came out onto the field this morning in their class bubbles and did their own race for life. They got into the spirit of a warm up with Mrs Marshall and then ran the route, smiling for the majority of it! Thank you children, you have made today memorable for so many reasons - a day to remember! Treasure those medals and thank you for all of your back signs. Staff have also embraced the day and help facilitate such a rewarding day by joining in. There have been tears, laughter and plenty of smiles.

A million thank you's are not enough to celebrate your generosity, kindness and wonderful families. We are Team GB and days like today, in strange and uncertain times, make teaching a job like no other and one in which we all feel PROUD to be a part of.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. (13:48 £4,360! WOW)

I will tweet away this afternoon so you can see all of the amazing images of the day.

Miss Callahan

