

One in a MILLION!



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This week, we're recognising the tireless work of Mandy Farrar, 58, from Liversedge. She said...

Opening up the back of my van, I looked proudly at all the packages I collected.

Stuffed full of everything from T-shirts to packs of nappies, seasonal food parcels, school uniforms and even a fridge, I'd reached out to the community for donations.

'What the hell have you brought back now?!' my husband Martin, 62, said.

I just laughed – my latest collection of goodies would make a big difference.

Working in a primary school in a deprived area of Yorkshire as a safeguarding officer, I was always helping struggling parents.

Whether that meant raising



I was gobsmacked

money for a terminally ill single parent or pointing a victim of domestic abuse in the right direction, the school always offered unconditional support.

But I took this even further.

Reaching out to local charities and companies, I collected donations of whatever the families needed.

I can get hold of all sorts of donations

And there's nothing I can't get hold of either!

In November 2021, we welcomed a family

from Syria into our school.

I was determined to help them get settled in the UK and they needed everything, too – from furniture to clothing.

Within minutes, my inbox was flooded with responses.

Bedding from the Salvation Army, clothes from the local uniform exchange and even our local Tesco invited me to

collect some bubble bath.

Seeing how everyone pulled through for the community was the best feeling – it only made me want to help more people.

Everyone knows Mandy won't say no to some spares!

In 2022, I also wrote my own parenting course called Families Together, covering all the basics from discipline to positive reinforcement.

Taught for free to parents at the school, it was available in multiple languages so no one was left out.

And in July this year, I was nominated for a Pearson National Teaching Silver Award by our headteacher.

Being randomly called into the school assembly hall with no explanation, it was the last thing I ever expected.

And going up to London to attend the ceremony, I was shocked to learn that I won!

While I'm flattered, I feel a bit embarrassed – I never really think about how many people I've helped.

For me, I'm always thinking – *who can I help next?*

And with my van in tow, I'm still on a mission to collect as many donations as I can.

After all, someone's spares could also be someone else's saving grace.

● To nominate an extraordinary teacher next year, visit: teachingawards.com

WORDS BY FLOSSIE PALMER. IMAGES: SWNS

Bitesize!

1	2	3	4
5			
6			
7			

ACROSS

- 1 Chief (4)
- 5 Board game (4)
- 6 Capital of Norway (4)
- 7 Sobbed (4)

DOWN

- 1 Setback (4)
- 2 English river (4)
- 3 Northern Irish political party (inits) (4)
- 4 Chimney deposit (4)

Read down the shaded squares for the answer.

Answer on page 47.

JUST FOR FUN

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