

NEWS
Saturday, June 26, 2004

## Special needs school is step closer to getting playground

**Let's make it happen**

**£10,000 GIVEAWAY**

**EVENING POST**





**Windfall winners:** Claire Stevens, left, chairwoman of the Warmley Park Special Needs School's Parent Staff Friends Association, and class teacher Marian Lovell with eight-year-olds, from left, Ben, Cyrus and Axel, on the play area

**A SPECIAL** needs school will be one step closer to getting a new all-weather playground, thanks to a cash windfall from the "Let's Make It Happen" cash giveaway.

The Warmley Park Special Needs School, in Tower Road North, will receive a £1,000 slice of the £10,000 prize pool set aside by the *Evening Post* and Combined Insurance.

The money will go towards paying for the £5,000 all-weather play park the school requires so that children with severe autism and learning difficulties can enjoy the physical activities they need.

The school, with 100 children and 123 teachers on its roll, has already raised £2,000 towards the cost of the play park.

Head teacher Steve Morris said the all-weather play area would be built before October.

He said: "We have a small play area which is safe for children to play on, but it is grassy and gets very muddy when it rains. Children need a lot of outdoor activities and physical stimulation to keep them happy. They don't really mind if they get covered in mud."

"That's why we need this area to be paved or covered with tarmac so a proper bigger play area can be built."

Mr Morris said that raising funds had proved a real struggle but welcomed the news that Warmley school would receive £1,000 from the Let's Make It Happen, Evening Post/Combined Insurance

# Windfall will help give kids a break

**How the Giveaway works**

ANY scheme – big or small – will be considered by the judges of the *Evening Post*/Combined Insurance Great £10,000 Community Giveaway.

The key point is that the money will go towards helping the community.

To enter, simply tell us how much you want and why you want it. Please do not forget to include your name, address and daytime telephone number with your entry. Closing date for the award scheme

is the end of July and winners will be featured throughout the initiative and will be invited to a special ceremony later in the year to receive their cheques.

Nominations and suggestions should be submitted by post to Let's Make It Happen, Stan Szeowka, deputy editor, *Evening Post*, Temple Way, Bristol, BS99 7HD; or by email to [s.szeowka@bepp.co.uk](mailto:s.szeowka@bepp.co.uk); or via the website [www.thisisbristol.co.uk/makeithappen](http://www.thisisbristol.co.uk/makeithappen).

**by OLIVIER VERGNAULT**

be able to communicate with him. Like the other children, Ben loves being outdoors and having his own space to run around and play.

"Getting this £1,000 is great news. It's a terrific school."

Under the Let's Make It Happen great £10,000 community giveaway share of the cash prize will be given to individuals, groups and charities to benefit the community.

Clive Robinson, managing director of Combined Insurance, said: "We're delighted that the Community Awards have had such an immediate impact on the local community in Bristol."

"We're looking forward to seeing the dreams of other winners being realised in the coming months."

✉ [o.vergnault@bepp.co.uk](mailto:o.vergnault@bepp.co.uk)

campaign. He said: "We're raising money by any way we can but people are not quite as generous for an outdoor play area as they would be for computers for children. But, hopefully, we'll have raised enough to build it before October."

Caroline Chadha, aged 33, from Stoke Gifford, whose seven-year-old son Ben has been attending the school for three years because of his severe autism, said: "We've already seen the difference. The school has helped him a lot. He could not speak when he started school. He can make a few commands. It's great for us to