



Patterdale School children and Ullswater 'Steamers' to join hundreds around the world as they fly a flag for Commonwealth Day

CHILDREN from Patterdale Primary School and Ullswater 'Steamers' staff will play their part in history on Monday (March 9th) as they come together to mark Commonwealth Day.

Pupils from the school will 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' on Glenridding Pier at 10am, joining others from around the world as more than 730 flags are raised in 38 countries.

The initiative, now in its second year, enables those taking part to show their commitment to the Commonwealth, and the opportunities offered for friendship and co-operation with fellow Commonwealth citizens around the world.

And at each individual event a special message of good wishes from Her Majesty The Queen will be read, along with a Commonwealth Affirmation, before flags are lifted.

Liz Stewart, headteacher at Patterdale Primary School said: "It's such a prestigious event and it means a lot to us to be part of it.

"It is the infants from the school that will be going along and they have been learning the Commonwealth oath as well as the history and the flags. It helps them understand the place of Britain in the world."

The first flag will be raised in Tonga, where time begins, by the Girl Guides Association of the Kingdom of Tonga, and for the first time in maritime history, the Commonwealth flag will be raised on-board all P&O and Cunard Line ships, wherever they may be travelling in the world that morning.

Commonwealth Flags will also be flown by Air Cadets in each of the six Regions of the Air Training Corps.

His Excellency Kamallesh Sharma, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth said: “Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth is a most imaginative way for people in local communities – wherever they live, learn or work – to join together with others throughout the Commonwealth in a spirit of respect and understanding to celebrate the variety and unmatched diversity of our global family. I welcome and commend it.”

Members of the community are invited to the ceremony at Glenridding Pier, 10am, Monday March 9th.

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