

**Playground Maintenance – Kids Company**



**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

On the afternoons of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June, members from Berenberg Bank arrived at Gloucester Primary School, situated in the deprived estates of Peckham. With over 600 pupils attending this school and the sad reality of their exposure to drugs and crime, the Kids Company decided to transform this once metal-framed playground into a more playful and fun area. 18 Berenbergers thus set out to decorate and then hang brightly painted jungle animals on the school fences in order to hopefully provide some security from the unsafe streets surrounding the school.



On the first day of this two day project, eight eager members from Berenberg began this enriching task. From the cutting of the animal images to the first coats of paint, we were able to provide a new atmosphere to the otherwise stark playground at Gloucester Primary School. As we moved into the second day, ten further enthusiastic Berenbergers set out to finish the job. With jigsaw in hand, we cut out and then sanded down many more jungle animal frames and gave them all a second vibrant coat of paint. Having such colourful animals will hopefully detract from the reality of the run-down surrounding estates.

Over the two days, many of the children’s eyes lit up on seeing the artwork for the first time, hopefully highlighting that a small gesture has made a difference to both the façade of the school and its pupils. Once the paint was dry, it was time to hang the figures on the playground fences, hoping to offer some visual interest and protection to the children on a daily basis by blocking out the hostile world in which they live.



Everyone who participated agreed that it was a privilege to help Gloucester Primary and contribute in some way to the children’s school lives.



**Participants:**

- Monique Ackermann, Chris Armstrong, Megan Beeston, Nina Buechs, Simon Chisholm, Oliver Collin, Laura Cooper, Nolan Craig, Graeme Davies, Hamish Edsell, Ben Hutton, Andrew McNally, Natalie Meech, Paola Miller, Kieran O’Sullivan, Sandra Rausch, Alexandra Roche, Marion Roux**

