**Template press release for branches/schools**

**FOR [IMMEDIATE RELEASE] [DATE]**

**SCHOOLS HOLD NATIONAL CELEBRATION DAY TO RECOGNISE SUPPORT STAFF AS 'STARS IN OUR SCHOOLS'**

School support staff\* across the [region/district/town] will be recognised tomorrow (Friday 24 November 2023) as part of a UK-wide celebration of the invaluable contribution they make to the education of pupils.

UNISON has organised the 'Stars in Our Schools' event to promote the wonderful work school support staff do every day, and to make sure the world knows just how vital they are to every school.

UNISON branch secretary said: [suggested quote but feel free to change]

This annual UK-wide celebration day is a great opportunity for pupils, parents and teachers to promote the work of their support staff and thank them for their outstanding contribution.

School support staff are so often hidden behind the scenes but they are vital to the education of young people. Their roles are incredibly diverse, from cooks, cleaners and caretakers to family support advisers, teaching assistants, admin staff and school business professionals. They play a vital role in every aspect of school life and without them schools could not run.

[Headteacher comments praising support staff]

[Student comment praising support staff]

[Parent comment praising support staff]

(Governor comment praising support staff]

ends

**Notes to Editors**

\* The union represents about 250,000 school support workers across the UK, which include caretakers, cleaners, school cooks, catering assistants, lunchtime supervisors, admin and finance staff, data managers, examinations staff, school business professionals, teaching assistants, classroom assistants, learning support assistants, cover supervisors, nursery nurses, library assistants, librarians, network managers, ICT technicians, food technicians, science technicians, design and technology technicians, attendance officers, family support advisers, learning mentors, school crossing patrol officers.

Information on photo opportunities, who to contact at Branch for more information