

Primary School Support Pack

Get creative for the Climate!



Introduction

"I have learned you are never too small to make a difference". Greta Thunberg

This School Support Pack is being made available to you as your school has recently registered to 'Get creative for the climate' – a Primary school project. To be used in conjunction with the Primary School Project Brief you have already received, this pack is intended to support your pupils' thinking around the issues with ideas to support project work including amongst other things;

- a link to **Fourlanesend Community Primary School** case study in Cornwall, who recently successfully lobbied Comic Relief to provide a red nose for next year's Red Nose Day made out of alternatives to plastic (Page 3)
- the Song lyrics from '**SOS from the kids**' who appeared on the recent television series Britain's Got Talent (Page 4)
- Leeds Children's Mayor selected shortlisted manifestos for 2020 (Page 5)
- Resources from the 'Happy News Project' which have been included to help with developing teamwork, speaking and listening and news writing and reading skills especially useful where school chooses to deliver its video film/PowerPoint presentation through creative writing or a news report, (Page 6) and
- further information and links to Earthshot a recently launched prestigious global environment prize worth £50 million over the next 10 years (Page 7)

Additional Supporting Resources (Pages 8 & 9)

Creating your short film

When it comes to making your short film the following tips and guidance will be useful:

- We are not looking for a cutting edge production. We simply want your film to be a platform for your pupils to proudly share with an emphasis on what the pupils themselves have played an active role in (pupil voice and participation). As such, you can produce your film using a standard video app on a smartphone or tablet
- Please use "landscape" format rather than "portrait" and limit the duration of your film to no more than 120 seconds including the following:
 - A small group of pupils/individual pupil introducing themselves and school name
 - A closing remark from pupils saying why they think it is important for their school and other schools in the city to work towards being carbon neutral

Submitting your short film

- We will be showing your film/presentation to City Councillors who sit on the Leeds City Council Climate Emergency Advisory Committee as well as to a network of Child Friendly Leeds Business Ambassadors. Please make sure that you have photographic consent for any pupils that appear in your film/presentation.
- To enable us to do this please send your film using one of the two following methods:
 - Use a free web-based file transfer service such as <https://wettransfer.com/> and sharing to our email address: schoolwellbeing@leeds.gov.uk
 - If your school has a cloud storage platform such as Google Drive you can upload your film and share the link with us by emailing schoolwellbeing@leeds.gov.uk

Finally, may we wish you well with this exciting project. We are really looking forward to receiving your school's contribution by close of play on **Friday 18th December** – Good luck!

Comic Relief Reveals 100% Plastic-Free Red Nose - thanks to pupil power!

Comic Relief recently revealed its first ever 100% plastic-free, plant-based Red Nose, which will launch early next year for Red Nose Day 2021. The new nose is made from bagasse, a natural by-product of sugarcane, chosen for its widely celebrated sustainable qualities. In keeping with the environmentally friendly theme, the Noses will be available in 10 different characters representing the great outdoors for the public to collect, including a squirrel, fox, badger and more.



Comic Relief had been researching more sustainable materials for some time, when in early 2019, the charity received letters and emails from hundreds of school children, asking them to create a plastic-free Nose to help reduce single-use plastic waste and protect the environment. Hearing children's voices encouraged the charity to step up a gear.

One school, **Fourlanesend Community Primary School**, Cornwall, received the backing of Sir David Attenborough when they wrote to him and shared their alternative Red Nose suggestion. Sir David sent them a handwritten letter telling the children, *"you are perfectly correct to revise the question of replacing plastic products wherever we can, and I hope you get an adequate answer from Comic Relief."*

Pupils aged between 5 and 10 from the school were given an exclusive first look at the new Noses and thanked for their environmental ideas and letters. They met a virtual panel of guests including Comic Relief co-founder, Richard Curtis, environmental broadcaster, Liz Bonnin, and host TV presenter, Ore Oduba, to discuss their views on the new Nose, why reducing single-use plastic waste is important and further steps we can all take.

Richard Curtis, Comic Relief co-founder, said: *"I'm extremely pleased that we have created the first plastic-free nose for Red Nose Day 2021 – this journey is an exciting one and we thank all the children who let us know they wanted a plastic free option. I'm delighted to give the environmental champion pupils at Fourlanesend the first look at the new Noses. Children are at the heart of our Red Nose Day and their opinions are really important to us. The work we support at Comic Relief is more important than ever in the face of COVID-19."*

Rebecca Norton, Headteacher at Fourlanesend Community Primary School, said: *"Plastic is an issue our children care passionately about as they see so much waste wash up on the shores of our beaches. They are such huge supporters of Comic Relief and really wanted to see the Nose change so they could continue supporting the work. The children were the driving force behind contacting our local press in 2019 and writing to Comic Relief and can't quite believe this has all happened! One of the most important things to come from this for me, is that the children have been listened to – this has really shown them that they can make a difference and should always stand up for what they believe in."*

Lauren, aged 9, said: *"We're such a small school, but despite that, we've been able to do something that is going to make a really big difference to the world we live in. Here at school, and in our local community we are very passionate about reducing our use of plastic, so it's a really good feeling knowing that what we've done has encouraged Comic Relief to create a plastic-free Nose"*.

For more information go to: <https://www.fourlanesendprimary.co.uk/website/news/79019> and/or the [Comic Relief website](#).

SOS FROM THE KIDS Song Lyrics



Formed when brothers Sim (12) and Noah Macaulay (14) teamed up with their cousin and close friends to record the song 'SOS from the Kids', the song was written after the boys learned at school about humankind's destruction of nature. They told their musician mum about the number of trees cut down each day, the state of the insects and the amount of energy and resources needed to make a T-shirt. Watching David Attenborough's 'Climate Change - The Facts' alerted them to the crisis caused by burning fossil fuels. It was Attenborough's nature programmes that first inspired their passion for bugs and insects.

The song, a wakeup call to all adults, started as a way to channel one family's feelings of despondency into something proactive, with hope and that others could join in with.

SOS FROM THE KIDS

This is an SOS from the kids
All the grown-ups take note of this
We're finding our voice, calling you out
You can't leave the world in fire and drought

This is an SOS from the kids
Please change the story re-write the plot
This beautiful earth cannot be lost
Stop hurting our planet like you don't care
There's only one world for us to share

This is an SOS from the kids
All the grown-ups take note of this
Wake up and see that you must make a change
The riches you seek will all be washed away

This is an SOS from the kids
Please change the story re-write the plot
This beautiful earth cannot be lost
Stop hurting our planet like you don't care
There's only one world for us to share

Don't listen to the fat cats, they only want their cream
Always needing oil for feeding their machines
We must care about the animals; care about the trees
I'll need help from you, you'll get help from me!

Please change the story re-write the plot
This beautiful earth, cannot be lost
Stop hurting our planet, like you don't care
There's only one world, for us to share

This is an SOS from the kids, you can do better than this.

To watch the video go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zI0XSWGstqA>

Leeds Children's Mayor 2020



Leeds Children's Mayor is an annual citizenship programme for Leeds primary schools engaging children in the process of voting and democracy to promote a better understanding of rights and responsibilities. This year the Leeds Children's Mayor programme went ahead during the summer term following which an impressive 50 plus school entries were received. A shortlist of the best 12 manifestos was agreed by a panel of children and young people, including the previous years' finalists and voting - open to anyone aged under 18 for who they want to be the next Children's Mayor - closed at 12pm on the 16th of October.

To see all the fantastic short-listed manifestos go to:

<https://breezeleeds.org/haveyoursay/Pages/LCM19/Childrens%20Mayor%20Voting-Page.aspx>

It is worth highlighting and pointing out to your pupils the following 4 manifestos, in particular, as they have a specific environmental focus relevant to the **Get creative for the Climate!** Project;

- ❖ Agatha Brundle, The Grammar School at Leeds: *'Sharing information and ideas to stop plastic pollution and climate change from harming our planet'*
- ❖ Grace Langdale, Great Preston C of E Primary School: *'Every Leeds child has the opportunity to grow their own fruit, vegetables and herbs'*
- ❖ Rosie Metchkarova-Taylor, Little London Community Primary School: *'Fun and free - work together as a team to create a masterpiece from household materials'*
- ❖ Sophie Powley, Meanwood C of E Primary School: *'Encourage children to walk to school or 'Park & Stride', and measure schools' progress'*



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL



Happy News Project Resources



If you chose to deliver your video film/PowerPoint presentation through a piece of creative writing or a news report then the 'Happy News Project' can help your pupils to develop teamwork, speaking and listening and news writing and reading skills.

Please note that these resources **are not being** referenced to facilitate pupils finding subject matter or a story to write about. Your school story line should be based on a combination of what your school is doing to address the top 3 priorities from the previous Leeds secondary school summit on Climate (Promoting sustainable travel - walking, cycling, scoot to school, school streets, etc; Tackling single use plastic (SUP)/recycling, and supporting school uniform recycling) **AND** what your pupils have identified as the top priorities for your school.

The emphasis of the Happy News Project is to report positive, uplifting stories to share with others which is precisely what we are attempting to do with the 'Get creative for the Climate! Project.

We want to really try to capture the creativity, the enthusiasm and the inspiration we need to pro-actively address the Climate Emergency; to challenge a sense of powerlessness and empower our children and young people to view their actions as combining together to make a positive difference.

As Prince William said when launching the new £50 million Earthshot environmental prize (see next page) - "positivity has been missing from the climate debate", we need to "*harness the optimism and urgency to find some of the world's solutions to some of the greatest environmental problems,*".

We are similarly motivated to embody that same spirit of positivity as we encourage our pupils to **'Get creative for the Climate!'**

For more information go to: <https://www.theguardian.com/newswise/2020/jun/04/happy-news-transition-project>

Prince William launches £50 million Earthshot Prize



Prince William recently launched the most prestigious global environment prize in history, as the five challenges at the heart of The Earthshot Prize were unveiled. This new global prize for the environment will incentivise change and help to repair our planet over the next 10 years – a critical decade for the Earth.

The launch comes after two years of work by Prince William and The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to develop a project which will support the global effort to protect and restore the environment. As well as identifying evidence-based solutions to the biggest environmental problems the planet faces, The Earthshot Prize aims to turn the current pessimism surrounding environmental issues into optimism that we can rise to the biggest challenges of our time.

Inspired by President John F. Kennedy's Moonshot which united millions of people around a goal to put man on the moon and catalysed the development of new technology in the 1960s, The Earthshot Prize is centred around five 'Earthshots' – simple but ambitious goals for our planet which if achieved by 2030 will improve life for everyone, for generations to come.

The five Earthshots are to:

- Protect and restore nature
- Clean our air
- Revive our oceans
- Build a waste-free world
- Fix our climate

Each Earthshot is underpinned by scientifically agreed targets including the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally recognised measures to help repair our planet.

For more information go to: <https://earthshotprize.org/>

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING RESOURCES

Leeds Parks and Countryside Service Woodland Creation Initiative

This autumn, Leeds City Council's Parks and Countryside Service launched a Woodland Creation Initiative as part of the Council's response to the Climate Emergency. The Woodland Creation Initiative is a 25-year long project to plant 5.8 million trees creating 1,250 hectares of woodland to both withstand and combat climate change. Many of these trees will be grown from local seeds in the plant nursery at the Arium (Thorner Lane, LS14 3FB). Schools can get involved in a number of ways; the Ranger team are running Autumn seed gathering workshops and Winter/Spring tree planting sessions with schools, and this September launched a new 'Woodland Creation Teaching Resource' with activities, games and resources to help children learn about the greenhouse effect, climate change, the carbon cycle and how trees work. Further information is available at:

www.theariumleeds.co.uk/woodland-creation. Copies of the **Woodland Creation Teaching Resource** available at <http://bit.ly/WoodlandCreationEdPack>

To be added to the Woodland Creation project mailing list email woodlandcreation@leeds.gov.uk.

Leeds Development Education Centre (DEC) - Climate change lessons

Using the UN's Sustainable Development Goals for Climate Action as a starting point the Leeds DEC have developed a set of Big Ideas, providing a summary of the most important things young people need to know about climate change by the time they leave school. Lessons have been written by subject teachers and climate change specialists and have been integrated within existing topics taught in subject curricular (Maths, MFL, Science, RE and Citizenship).

For more information go to: <https://leedsdec.co.uk/climate-action-vm/>

National Literacy trust: Hot topic - Greta Thunberg and the Climate Emergency (including suggested reading books)

In December 2019, 17-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, became the youngest person to be named Time magazine's person of the year. Through her activism, Greta has been instrumental in bringing the issue of the climate emergency into global focus and engaged millions of children in participating in school strikes for climate. Most children will have heard about climate change and may be worried about what this means for them and their lives. Reading around the subject will increase their knowledge and give them the vocabulary to engage in relevant discussions. Also, this real life, pressing issue will be of great interest to many pupils and is an ideal way of offering them an authentic writing experience with a clear audience and purpose. This hot topic resource can be used to spark ideas for using climate change to engage children in the classroom. Suggestions can be adapted for pupils aged 7-14. Climate change offers a number of engaging and interactive opportunities to promote learning and literacy. This hot topic resource:

- recommends relevant age appropriate books to support reading. These books can be used as the basis of literacy lessons, reading activities or as part of daily story time
- offers ideas for oracy activities, including debates about whether children should go on school strikes, and

- suggests purposeful writing activities such as letter writing

For more information go to: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/hot-topic-greta-thunberg-and-climate-emergency/>

'Waste & Recycling' lesson for Leeds Primary schools

The aim of the Waste and Recycling lesson is for pupils to explore, through a range of interactive activities and video film, the different types of waste that can be recycled in Leeds through the domestic waste recycling scheme. This lesson will call upon pupil knowledge and appreciation of which materials can be recycled at school. Extension of the lesson supports establishment of a dedicated team of School Recycling Champions supported by an accompanying Teachers e-resource pack. By the end of the lesson pupils will;

- understand the benefits of the 4 R's of waste; **reduce, re-use, recycle** and **recover** - conserving important natural resources and helping to prevent damage to the planet and harm to animals
- appreciate positive outcomes from collective effort; I can '*do my bit*' to help my parents/carers to recycle through understanding which items go into the green bin
- have knowledge of what happens to recyclable materials and a greater appreciation that '*it feels good*' to make a difference

An accompanying 'Waste & Recycling' lesson plan and script is also available.

For more information go to: <https://www.schoolwellbeing.co.uk/pages/school-waste-education-programme>

Wildlife Trusts call for every child to have daily one-hour nature boost

The Wildlife Trusts study by the Institute of Education, UCL to evaluate the impact experiencing nature has on children focused on over 450 pupils and the effects of Wildlife Trust-led activities on their wellbeing in one of the largest studies ever undertaken into the effects of outdoor activities on children's wellbeing and views of nature. Overall, the research revealed that children's wellbeing increased after spending time connecting with nature: showing an increase in personal wellbeing and health over time, as well as an increase in nature connection demonstrating high levels of enjoyment.

The children also gained educational benefits as well as wider personal and social benefits:

- 90% of children felt they learned something new about the natural world
- 79% felt that their experience could help their school work
- After their activities 84% of children felt that they were capable of doing new things when they tried
- 79% of children reported feeling more confident in themselves
- 81% agreed that they had better relationships with their teachers and 79% reported better relationships with their class-mates

The outdoor activities involved children learning about nature, identifying plants and trees, reflecting on their important role in our lives and considering the needs of wildlife habitats.

Follow these links for the summary, *Nature Nurtures Children*, and the final research report, *Children and Nature*.