



## Show the Love in your school: Speak Up week of action 8th-16th October 2016

We'd love your school to join us from 8th-16th October in a nationwide week of action to celebrate the people, places and things we want to protect from climate change – and make sure MPs feel that love.

People all over the UK will be organising events in their local areas to tell their MP how much they care about what we could lose to climate change.

We've got 3 steps below with which you can encourage KS2 and KS3 pupils (ages 9-14) to:

1. Explore climate change in a new way
2. Send creative messages to their MP
3. Organise an event in your school to talk to your MP about climate change

### Our aims

**Politicians need to see that tackling climate change is important to us or there's a risk they won't take the action needed to protect the things we love.**

A world powered by 100% clean energy within a generation is in our reach. At last year's global climate negotiations, countries signed a landmark climate agreement which endeavours to keep global warming below 1.5°C, with a long term goal to reduce global emissions to zero. We want our politicians to ratify this agreement and commit to an ambitious low carbon investment plan [1]



## 1. Explore climate change from a new angle

Learners could examine in class what they love about the earth and what climate change would affect. What do they love most in the world? Why do we need planet earth? Do they have a precious or special place they love going? You could use:

**Creative activities and discussion ideas:** encouraging children to explore their relationship with the earth and the issue of climate change in an inspiring new way.

- Creative activities for KS2 English classes (ages 9-11) inspired by a beautiful letter written by children's author Michael Morpurgo, from a grandfather to his granddaughter. See [pages 8-10 of Wishes for our World resource pack](#). These activities can be easily adapted for older pupils.

**Film analysis activity:** using 'I wish for you', a 5 min film, based on the letter. View the film here: [tiny.cc/schoolslove](http://tiny.cc/schoolslove) or download here: [tiny.cc/filmdownload](http://tiny.cc/filmdownload).

- Analysis activity for 9-11 years olds see [page 6 Wishes for our World resource pack](#)
- Analysis activity for 12+ years see **Appendix 1** below.

**Background information on the issue:** from Oxfam that will help pupils understand what's at stake if we don't act to tackle climate change. [Download PDF For the Love of... Background Information here](#)

**Who cares about climate change?** Share with pupils what famous people have done to show their love for the world in the face of climate change - from astronaut Tim Peake to singer Jessie J, in written form here: [tiny.cc/lovehighlights2016](http://tiny.cc/lovehighlights2016) and on you tube here: <http://tiny.cc/Highlightsfilm2016> or [download here](#).

**Find out about the low carbon investment plan:** the pledge to develop this carbon plan came about after a lobby we did last year. [From the end of July check out a resource here to explain that plan.](#)



## 2. Get creative, get persuasive - creating a message for your MP

If politicians hear from enough of us that tackling climate change is important, they're more likely to take the action needed to protect the things we love.

Your class or school could write to their local MP as part of a Literacy, English or Citizenship lesson, crafting a persuasive letter or message about what they love and want to protect.

**What makes a letter powerful?** For discussion ideas and activities to spark ideas of how to write an powerful letter, use p5-7 of the [Wishes for our World resource pack](#) created for English classes, ages 9-11. See **Appendix 1** below for an adapted version of this exercise for older pupils (12-14).

**Writing for different audiences:** Michael Morpurgo's [Wishes for our World Letter \(p5\)](#), along with the discussion ideas in **Appendix 2** can be used to explore which elements of this powerful letter could be used in a letter to an MP.

**Write to your MP:** learners can write a persuasive letter to their MP. Use the letter template and guidance in **Appendix 3** to help pupils order their argument with evidence as to why their local MP needs to take action to tackle climate change.

**Send your MP a heart:** learners can write a message on a heart and send it to their MP. This can be found as an activity in the 'Further Ideas' box in the [Wishes for our World resource pack \(p11\)](#). Learners can also make their own heart, find creative heart making ideas at [tiny.cc/greenhearts](http://tiny.cc/greenhearts).



### 3. Show your MP the love! Get your message to your MP

Once everyone has created their letter or message, make sure your local MP hears it loud and clear!

If you do this during our week of action (8-16 October), you'll be joining hundreds of community groups and individuals who will also be contacting their MP at this time. However don't worry if your activity doesn't fall within this week - your MP is there to listen to your views all year round! You could:

**Invite your local MP to your school** to hand over the messages

- [use Oxfam's For The Love Of action guide](#) for a step by step guide.
- [Use this poster template to promote your event.](#)

**Ask learners to find out more & send their message to your local MP:** get information on your local MP at [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com)

**Take a whole school selfie:** you can include your young people's messages and tweet your local MP, asking them to #SpeakUp on what they will do to #showthelove

[1] The UK Government has targets to tackle climate change, outlined in the UK Climate Change Act. Now the Government has promised us a 'low carbon investment plan' by the end of the year, which will set out the policies to drive down emissions over the next decade.

A briefing on the Low Carbon Investment Plan will be available at [www.weekofaction.org.uk/resources](http://www.weekofaction.org.uk/resources) from September.

## APPENDIX 1

**Adapted film and letter analysis activity for older pupils (12+) using the core resources from the [Wishes for our World resource pack](#):**

Pupils could consider questions like:-

- Why do you think Mia's Grandpa wrote this letter to Mia?
- Choose 3 descriptions Michael Morpurgo uses in his letter – give an example of where we are experiencing this in today's world. You could think about things like: countries around the world, particular conflicts/wars you have heard of, things you've read in the news, perhaps even climate changes you've seen in your local areas.
- Think about the experiences you have had with nature. What has it taught you?
- What do you think 'learning to love our earth again' would involve? If you were parent, how would teach your children to love the earth?
- Michael Morpurgo describes the earth as a 'living breathing being'. If you had to create your own metaphor for the earth, how would you describe it? It is a person? It is a feeling?
- How does Mia's Grandpa persuade Mia to take action?

## APPENDIX 2

**Discussion ideas to think about writing for different audiences: drawing ideas from the [Wishes for our World letter](#) (p5) to write to your MP:**

Explain that pupils are going to **write a letter to their MPs** about their wishes for our world. Pupils should think about their wishes for our world as well as what they think needs to be done to make these wishes come true. Referring back to the Grandpa's letter to Mia, discuss what features and structure will make their letter effective:

- They are writing to an MP, will this affect the structure and the tone of their letter? How?
- Which words will they use to describe what the world they wish for is like?
- What do they think needs to be done to make their wishes come true?
- How will they persuade their MP to listen to their asks?

## APPENDIX 3

### **Letter template and guidance for writing a persuasive letter to an MP:**

Writing to our MPs is one of the most powerful tools we have, and while pupils may be too young to vote, they are still constituents and have a right to be heard!

Here are some tips on how learners could structure their letters:

**1. Pick a subject you are very strongly about**

- *Bees, football, butterflies, chocolate, beaches...*

**2. Tell the MP what the issue is and why you feel strongly about it, you can list your key points before you start**

- *Bees pollinate over two thirds of all the food crops we eat, but as the seasons change bees are struggling to adapt...*
- *Climate change could make it a lot more difficult to play football as it could mean more frequent flooding of our favourite pitches. This winter, many football pitches in the North of England were flooded after torrential rains.*

**3. Write personally, passionately and with emotion – think about your own experiences, think about conversations you have had with friends and family, talk about them!**

- *I want to live in a world where..., In my town, I have seen changes...*

**4. Repeat words or ideas**

- *This is my future..., My future depends on...*

**5. Challenge your MP to do something, end your letter with a question**

- *What will you do to save my future/someone else's future?*

### **Extra tasks for older pupils**

**6. Do some research!** You can find out more about your local MP and what they've spoken out on here: [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com)

**7. If you have time, you may even want to go onto your MP's Twitter or Facebook to see what causes they often talk about and what matters to them**

**8. If you want to go a step further you could work with your teachers to do some research into the policy asks of the Carbon Plan. [From the end of July, check out a resource here to explain the Carbon Plan.](#)**