

Time To Stop Talking and Start Doing

Sir David Attenborough, Prince Charles, Prince William, Sir Jonathan Porritt, Jane Goodall and Sylvia Searle - who is seen by many to be the world's leading marine biologist – are just a few of the scientists and environmentalists who have commented that we have talked about our impact on the planet for many years, yet we have not acted upon what we know is happening. They all categorically state the time for talking must be replaced with action if we are to create a sustainable future; a sustainable planet that adults will be proud to hand to future generations.

“It’s now or never to limit the warming.” *The UN’s International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on BBC News, April 4 2022.*

“The fact is that no species has ever had such wholesale control over everything on earth, living or dead, as we now have. That lays upon us, whether we like it or not, an awesome responsibility.” *Sir David Attenborough on Life on Earth.*

Why is it so hard for so many to understand the impact we are having on the world and the devastation it is causing?

Many have changed and are doing wonderful things but is it enough? Many international corporations now have sustainability at the centre of their core values and more are following, but can we do more?

The Helping Others Protect the Environment (HOPE) group at Pipers Corner School believe it is important to show people how our actions impact on the world and then follow it up by showing the things we can all do that will help to create a sustainable future, whether locally or further afield.

We run a series of programmes and activities to remind everyone of what is happening and to outline our individual and collective responsibilities in creating a sustainable future.

In the world we live, we often feel we do not have time to think about the impact of our actions. It is the responsibility of the HOPE group to inform, enthuse, inspire and achieve.

We can all do something. Here are just a few ideas:

- Plant British wildflowers in your garden to help bees and other pollinating insects.
- Turn yoghurt pots into small flower pots for seedlings.
- Reduce food waste by only cooking what you know you need and re-use or compost leftovers.
- Buy only British vegetables, fruit, meat and fish.
- Check that the food, shower gel, deodorants and face creams you buy, do not use Palm Oil as Palm Oil is the reason Orangutans are on the extreme endangered species list.
- Take showers instead of having a bath.
- Only wash dishes when the dishwasher or sink is full.
- Buy environmentally-friendly cleaning products.
- Don't cut all your grass and leave some to naturally grow creating corridors for wildlife.
- Use both sides of your paper and then recycle it.
- Turn off lights in rooms that are not being used.
- Turn all electrical appliances off properly rather than leave them on standby.
- Walk, cycle or take public transport rather than automatically drive the car.

- Let your local Councillor and MP know of your concerns.
- Share your views with family and friends.

A very good friend of Pipers Corner School is Juan Kunchikuy, a Shiwiar Amazonian Indigenous person and one of the Amazonian Rainforests top guides and he sends us all a message:

“Never think that as one person you cannot make a difference if we in the Amazon do our bit and if you in your country do your bit then together we can make a sustainable future for our special planet.”

By Olivia L, Chair of HOPE group, and Phil Williams, Environmentalist-in-Residence.