



PORT·REGIS GREEN VISION NEWS



2026
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FSC CERTIFIED PAPER

Environmental
journalism
by 8-13 years
olds

REWILDING IN SOMERSET TURTLE CONSERVATION IN THE PACIFIC



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THIS ISSUE

HOW A LOVE OF
NATURE INSPIRES
CREATIVITY

AN UPDATE ON
OUR GREEN
INITIATIVES

A LOOK AT
ENVIRONMENTAL
ISSUES WORLDWIDE

OUR NEW
GREEN
CHARITY

Letter from the Editor

It is a great joy to introduce the second edition of Port Regis's Green Vision newspaper. Such was the enthusiasm of our budding young journalists that I needed to add extra pages to the final edit. As children from the Prep School came forward with their wonderful ideas, it was their passion for protecting the planet and their deep love of wildlife that truly shone through. As David Attenborough so beautifully reminds us - and as the children clearly understand - "The natural world is the greatest source of excitement, the greatest source of visual beauty, the greatest source of intellectual interest, and the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living." The children's writing expresses this joy so vividly that only minimal editing was required.

There is much good news to report from our school's Green Vision. This newspaper places front and centre one of our key aims: to create a culture that embeds in every child a love of the natural world and a responsibility to preserve it. The voices of the children featured here give us adults great hope for the future.

Well done and heartfelt thanks to all the contributors, and especially to Mrs Moussalli, Mr Pope and all the parents and staff who supported the project along the way. *Jemima Mills*



PORT REGIS NATURE TRAIL

By Molly & Heidi

There is so much beautiful nature all around the world. We are especially lucky at Port Regis with all the nature here too. Each season we are gifted with changing scenery - let us take you on a nature trail through the seasons.

Autumn

The golf course looks glorious when all the leaves are orange and red. You can also see foxes and squirrels collecting food for winter.

Winter

I love going for long walks and hearing the frost crunch under my feet. I also love seeing the holly and bringing it home for decorations. In the morning I also love seeing the robins.

Spring

I love seeing the daffodils everywhere and seeing the bluebells in the woods blossoming and blooming. I like going on long walks and spotting deer and different flowers. Spring is a great time at Port Regis for foraging for wild garlic that is in abundance.

Summer

In summer I love running outside and seeing the sun so bright and the roses flowering in the Rose Garden. Being outside is best of all in summer. You should also go all around the edge of the Ivy field and pick blackberries.

So come and look at our amazing nature and let us all look after it. These are our top things to spot on our nature trail at Port Regis -

Orange leaves, foxes, squirrels, robins, holly, bluebells, roses & blackberries!



10 Things You Can Do to Help the Environment! By Martha

1. Turn off lights - it saves so much energy!

5. RE-USE!
REDUCE!
RECYCLE!
3 Rs

2. Use food in season - strawberries are not in season in the winter.

6. Try going litter picking for fun!

3. Reduce the amount you use your car, especially if it is not electric. Bicycling to school is good or sharing lifts.

7. Try and keep a garden full of flowers for the bees and other pollinators - they love it!

9. Try not to waste paper - recycle paper as much as possible and use old bits to write on instead of always fresh new sheets.

4. Turn off taps properly and make sure they are not dripping.

8. Turn off your electrical devices properly when not in use.

10. Do not use plastic straws - you suck them, but they suck! Use paper ones instead. Plastic is bad for nature.



SPRING BINGO!

Nature Scavenger Hunt - one of the junior boarder's favourite weekend activities in the beautiful school grounds at Port Regis.

1. A BUD ON A TREE
2. BIRD SONG
3. A FLOWER ABOUT TO BLOOM
4. A LOG PILE
5. LONG GRASS
6. A FLYING INSECT
7. A CRAWLING INSECT
8. A NESTING BOX
9. A WATERY HABITAT
10. MOSS
11. A HEDGEROW
12. SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN NIBBLED BY WILDLIFE
13. A HUMAN CHANGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT
14. A PLANT GROWING IN A TRICKY PLACE (LIKE A CRACK IN A WALL)
15. SOMETHING THAT BEGINS WITH 'E'

LOWER SCHOOL ECO WARRIORS

EDIE AND NUR



We must not destroy the natural world because we are part of the Wild Circle. The wildlife are too vulnerable to fight back because of what we've done. We should try to be more like the young Londoner 'Amelia Lam'. When she saw an Albino squirrel in the middle of London she completely fell in love with nature and has, ever since, been trying to make a difference. When she was only fifteen, she made differences by:

- In high polluting spots she talked to the local governments and helped improve their policies.
- She made bird feeders.
- She was an active protester on behalf of wildlife rights.

Taking the first step

We all need to take a stand for the environment before all that's left is ash. Forty years ago, the icecaps were double their current size. There are now 48,600 endangered species and forty years ago there were about half that number.

We can all take a step by:

Picking up litter, Growing a tree, Recycling, Use eco-friendly things and Saving power!

**THERE IS NO
PLANET B
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

Animals

So many animals are endangered! We keep a list of some of them in our note book: Orangutans, polar bears, snow leopards, forest tigers, chimpanzees, some lions, southern white rhino, flying foxes, box jelly fish, jaguars, green anaconda, poison dart frogs, macaws, puffin, humming birds, giraffes, toucan, amur leopard, forest elephants, silver back gorilla, giant tortoise, pacific fisher, grey wolf, humpback whale, all sharks, opossums, koala, tree kangaroo, armadillo, sloth, orca, tapir, hornbill, antelope, some geese, Ethiopian wolf...and more...the list is SO long!

Many animals suffer as a direct result of de-forestation, for example ORANGUTANS in Borneo whose habitat is being destroyed by the second for the Palm Oil industry. Ancient rainforests are being cut down and replaced with Palm trees. Bornean Orangutans have declined by 50% in less than 50 years. Because they only breed every 3-5 years their population recovery is slow and requires a lot of help. It is so much easier to destroy than create, which is why we all need to work together and be more careful of this earth and all the beautiful things in it.

Rainforest animals are not the only ones in trouble. THE ARABIAN LEOPARD is native to the desert regions of Arabia but they are currently on the brink of extinction. In 2022 there were only 100-120 left in the wild because of loss of their desert habitat through urbanisation and agriculture. It is not all bad news however because there are now organisations with lots of money like the Arabian Leopard Fund, working to protect them through re-wilding projects. Hopefully this will work, like what happened with the Arabian Oryx which was extinct in the 1970's in the wild but now has an increasing population.

THE HYACINTH MACAW is an amazing blue parrot with a wing span of up to 5 feet! That is taller than us! They are a beautiful blue colour and are native to the Amazonian rainforest. They are vulnerable to all the deforestation and hunting but now they are protected and their numbers are increasing. This bird has an interesting relationship with the Toco toucan: Hyacinth Macaws mostly nest in Manduvi trees which rely on the toucan for most of its seed dispersal, which is a positive thing, but at the same time the toucans eat 53% of the Macaws eggs which is over half and sounds terrible! The Eco-System is a complicated thing and our role in it is crucial.

**LET US CONTINUE TO EDUCATE
OURSELVES TO UNDERSTAND AND
PRESERVE OUR MAGNIFICENT PLANET.**



Trees

We need to stop cutting down trees because the destruction affects us all. We breathe in Oxygen, and we breathe out Carbon Dioxide and they do the opposite by breathing in Carbon Dioxide and breathing out Oxygen. We are therefore dependent on them and we should look at them with reverence and respect.

Trees have watched human kingdoms rise and fall. They are like our ancestors.

There are some very ancient trees indeed still standing on our planet, for example:

- The Cedars of Lebanon
- Yew Trees in the British Isles
- The Methuselah Tree in California
- The Olive Tree of Vouves in Crete
- Old Tjikko in Sweden



Surely these venerable trees from all over the world, some of which are hundreds and thousands of years old, should make us think about the Earth in a more respectful way?

Underneath some of these Ancient Trees are some even more ancient Root Systems which are literally hundreds of thousands of years old. These root systems are like the trees' nervous systems and are like their senses and how they communicate. They are connected between trees via underground fungal systems and can communicate with each other in this way, just as we do, like a natural internet: The Wood Wide Web. But, because we don't respect the intelligence and sophistication of trees, humans chop down these ancient eco-systems, and this leads to De-forestation.

We must save the trees! Like the Lorax 'We speak for the trees!'

Small changes add up to make a big difference!

Edie & Nur

Teacher's Favourite Nature Fiction - Mrs de Bono & Family

The Hobbit (Tolkien)

Day of the Triffids (Wyndham)

Wolf Brother series (Michelle Paver)

Watership Down (Richard Adams)

**The Story of the Blue Planet (Andre
Snaer Magnason)**

October October (Katya Balen)

The Wild Robot (Peter Brown)

Moomin Books (Tove Jansson)



Port Regis's Green Vision Update 2026 By Simba



Port Regis School is doing great things for the environment by making strong progress on sustainability. Between 2020 and 2026, the school cut overall energy use by 17.5% and reduced grid electricity consumption by 38% — a significant achievement as prices rise. The aim is to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The Green Vision places sustainability at the heart of school life. A major step forward has been the installation of solar panels, including a large ground array on the golf course. Together they have generated clean electricity, avoiding around 355 tonnes of CO₂ — roughly equivalent to planting 5,857 trees.

Lighting upgrades have also had a big impact. Nearly 100% of bulbs are now LED, using 75–90% less energy than incandescent lighting. Old projectors have been removed, and smart lighting controls in the central hall ensure power is used only when needed.

Heating systems have been improved too. Doors have been repaired to reduce heat loss, and oil boilers in the main building have been replaced with more efficient gas systems. Waste has been reduced dramatically: thousands of single-use plastic bottles and yoghurt pots have been eliminated, and food waste is composted rather than sent to landfill. Water consumption has fallen, though daily use still averages around 3,000 litres. Altogether, these measures prevent hundreds of tonnes of CO₂ each year — particularly significant for a large school. Port Regis has achieved below average carbon consumption per head.

Challenges remain. Travel, food supply chains and gas use are harder to control, and water use reduction continues. Tree planting supports carbon capture and biodiversity, though woodland must be carefully managed. Since 2021, around 900 native trees have been planted — Silver Birch, Hazel, Rowan, Sessile Oak, English Oak, Blackthorn, Holly, Field Maple, Hawthorn, Dog Rose, Crab Apple, Wild Cherry and Grey Willow. Established woodland on site acts as an important carbon sink.

Unused spaces are being transformed into pollinator gardens and wildflower areas, with sections of the grounds left unmown to encourage biodiversity. Environmental initiatives run across the school — from gardening club and habitat building to bird surveys, introducing biodegradable cleaning products and more.

Education underpins it all. Pupils track solar data, take part in environmental days and support the new school charity The Iris Project, learning that small, thoughtful actions lead to meaningful change. At Port Regis, sustainability is collaborative, pupil-led and central to school life — and the Green Vision continues to grow as one of its most important commitments.

Our Green Impact Since 2020

1,200 Trees planted across the school
including 300 being planted on Environment Day

20,000 plastic water bottles and
50,000+ plastic yoghurt pots saved from landfill

17.5% Reduction in overall energy use
38% Less electricity from the grid

354.92 tonnes CO₂ saved through solar power generation
equal to planting 5,857 trees

~100% LED lighting across the Prep School
75–90% more efficient than traditional bulbs

30% More efficient heating
with new boilers installed in 2025

30 Mile Menu By Piran



Port Regis is an incredible place, and one of the most outstanding things about the school is the food! The catering team are exceptional, offering delicious meals from breakfast to lunch and dinner. As an eco-friendly community,

embracing sustainable initiatives, from publishing this newspaper to planting trees and our 30 Mile Menu is an important date in the school's calendar.

The 30 Mile Menu started when Mr and Mrs Mills arrived at the school in 2021, at the same time we launched our Green Vision and encouraged the school to jump into sustainable action in a new way. The 30 Mile Menu gave the school the opportunity to think about the food we eat, where it comes from, and the environmental impact our food has. The idea is that everything on the menu comes from within a 30-mile radius of the school. We try to shop locally, so some of the suppliers are our regular ones, like Prime and Cuts butcher in Shaftesbury, who provide much of our meat. Crook and Churn Dairy provide dairy products such as milk and cheese, and our eggs come from the local Foots Eggs, who supply all we need for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Our last 30 Mile Menu included roast pork from Udder Farm and potatoes from Larkinglass Farm, which belongs to Arthur A in D Form. Crook and Churn Dairy in Fontmell Magna provided the cheese for a soufflé, which was the vegetarian option. The charcuterie on the menu came from Fontmell Magna. The most local items on the menu were the blackberry and apple muffins for which some Port Regis students had foraged the ingredients from the school grounds! It's not only one day of the year that our catering team improve our environmental impact. More year-round eco-friendly actions have been implemented. Yoghurt is no longer served in individual plastic pots, instead we make our own or buy large containers to reduce the number of yoghurt pots — we save about 60 plastic yoghurt pots per day! We have no plastic packaging for snacks, and we have hugely reduced the use of plastic water bottles used for matches, daily school life and school trips. The catering team thinks we have saved about 20,000 plastic water bottles! We try to reduce food waste and if there is any food left over at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, we collect it in buckets. Around the back of the kitchens, we have a composter (the Gobbler) where we deposit the waste. The compost is then used directly on our beautiful grounds and helps to grow new produce for next year's 30 Mile Menu.

I want to say thank you to the amazing James Franko and his wonderful catering team, who fully embrace the 30 Mile Menu and work tirelessly to make the catering department as sustainable as possible. We will continue to enjoy the 30 Mile Menu every year at Port Regis, and we can't wait to see what delicious food we will be enjoying next time!



Port Regis Tree Trail

Port Regis has some rare and wonderful trees. To celebrate these trees, and create a creative learning activity for the pupils, Mrs Mills and Mr Pope have created a Tree Trail as a permanent fixture around the North Lawn. The content covers many areas of the curriculum, from biology, theology, history, literature, philosophy, ecology and more. All pupils will complete the trail on Environment Day.



Birds of Dorset

By Sonny & Isaac – Budding Ornithologists



Birds of Dorset have unique flight patterns and have distinguished appearance compared to other birds of the UK. These are our favourites –

Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers are unique because of their incredibly strong skull and beak. They also have very curved talons so they can latch on to trees.

Kingfishers

Kingfishers have a special way of hunting, because of the way they dive into the water with their long beaks. They can catch up to 30 fish per hour.

Owls

Common owls found in Dorset include tawny owls and barn owls. Owls are 92% nocturnal and are mostly active from 5:30 PM to around 3:00 AM. They enjoy nesting in tall trees and the children in Pritchard and Grosvenor can hear them in the woods at night when they are in their beds.

Buzzards

Buzzards are a type of hawk closely related to red kites. They are easy to spot on lamp posts or pylons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

Robins

Robins are firm favourites of most people living in England. They are incredible birds because they use moss in their nests which attracts other robins to come check them out.

Swans

Dorset is home to Britain's only managed colony of nesting mute swans at Abbotsbury Swannery. These swans are traditionally considered to belong to the British monarch, and large numbers gather along the Fleet Lagoon and River Frome especially outside breeding season.

Herons

Dorset's wetlands and rivers support large numbers of grey herons, which nest in treetop colonies called heronries. They spear fish with lightning quick movements and can often be seen standing statue-still at dawn before unfolding their six-foot wingspan in flight.

Energy Use at Port Regis

By William



At Port Regis, we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and environmental impact – while lowering costs.

In 2025, we replaced the Mansion's ageing oil boilers with gas systems, expected to be 30% more efficient.

We have also converted all lighting to LEDs, nearly doubling efficiency, and installed solar panels around the golf course and on school buildings, generating substantial energy savings. We aim to reduce our

carbon footprint and lessen our environmental impact. We have found a way to do that and have managed to save around 355 metric tons of carbon dioxide from spreading into our atmosphere if we had bought it from the grid. In fact, since the start of the school year in 2021 to 2025, we have reduced electricity consumption from the grid by 39%!

Mr Pope, who was immensely helpful to the writers of the newspaper said that "the amount of energy that we have been able to produce sustainably would require around six thousand trees to offset the carbon output if we bought it from a company". This is tremendous news, and we will continue to do everything we can to better our impact on the environment.

Leaf Your Mark by William

The introduction of solar panels on the golf course was partially funded by generous donations. The solar panels have been completed but the opportunity to give continues. Port Regis has continued this legacy with a project called "Leaf your Mark". This is a wonderful way to commemorate a pupil's time at Port Regis, but it also supports our invaluable Green Vision and Bursary fundraising initiatives. You can contact the school office for more information.

A gift of £500 will go to our fundraising for bursaries or Green Vision and a child's name, or the name of a group of friends or a sports team, will be engraved on a handcrafted oak leaf and displayed in the school's dining room... forever! We hope this collection of beautiful oak leaves will grow; so if you're looking for a way to commemorate your time at PR while supporting a truly magnificent cause, leafing your mark is the way to do it.

Port Regis says that –

Our Green Vision fundraising campaign puts sustainability at the heart of everything we do at Port Regis, with the ambitious aim of being carbon neutral 2030. The campaign strengthens our commitment to expanding our solar power capacity, as well as reducing plastic and paper usage on site, cutting food waste, rewilding areas of our school grounds, and integrating nature and environmental protection into the curriculum.

The Bursary Fund allows us to maintain the breadth and diversity of our student body, something we have always taken immense pride in. We believe it is vitally important to do all we can to open up the educational experience offered at Port Regis to children from all walks of life.





When I met Jane...

I was very lucky to have met Jane Goodall, she and my dad were working together on an environmental project. I was just recovering from an accident when I met her, so I missed a few days of school. I was ashamed of my accident and worried about what people might think of me when I went back to school, but she inspired me to take pride in my differences. She then showed me her finger (or should I say half a finger). It turns out she had the top of her finger bitten off by a chimp. We both laughed about our similar accidents. I am so happy to have met Jane Goodall before she passed. She was a brilliant person and inspires us all to help save the environment.

Nature Champions – By Dolly

JANE GOODALL

Jane Goodall was a pioneering British scientist best known for her groundbreaking 60-year study of wild chimpanzees in Gombe, Tanzania, which transformed our understanding of animal behaviour. She showed that chimpanzees can work together and even use tools to get what they need! Jane Goodall became a global conservation leader, founding the Jane Goodall Institute and advocating tirelessly for wildlife protection and environmental stewardship. She died last year but her legacy as a nature champion lives on.



Did you know...
Jane Goodall had a stuffed animal which was a chimpanzee named Jubilee.

Did you know...
While working as an assistant in a London film studio, she received an invitation from a friend to visit her farm in Kenya.



THE IRIS PROJECT - A Global Initiative

The Iris Project works with a global fund created in memory of Iris Goldsmith who tragically died at just 15. To honour her, the project is building a worldwide squad of teens committed to saving and reviving their local environments. We know that young people are already stepping up big time to tackle the climate and ecological crises. The Iris Project is all about spotlighting this leadership and helping awesome teens by giving them the funds and support that can be super hard to get.

What it means to me...

Iris Goldsmith was my cousin, she had very strong will power. Iris died age 15, her father and mother (Kate Rothschild and Ben Goldsmith) set up The Iris Project in memory of her. It was perfect because she was practically in love with the environment and how we need to protect it. My uncle Ben Goldsmith wrote a book called 'God is an octopus' it is about loss and specifically the loss of my cousin Iris. The book explains how much Iris cared for the environment.

Did you know...

The project awards three annual prizes to young environmental leaders, with winners receiving financial support, mentorship and opportunities for networking.

Did you know...

The project supports initiatives tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and waste reduction.

Did you know...

The initiative encourages young individuals to become guardians of their local areas.



SYLVIA EARLE

Dr. Sylvia Earle (born 1935) known affectionately as "Her Deepness", is a pioneering American marine biologist and National Geographic Explorer at Large whose career has redefined our understanding of the oceans. A former Chief Scientist of NOAA and the first person to lead an all-female team of aquanauts during the 1970 Tekite II mission, she remains a tireless advocate for the "blue heart of the planet".

Through her organisation, Mission Blue, she has established over 150 "Hope Spots" – marine protected areas critical to global health – and continues to lobby for the 30x30 movement to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030. In early 2026 she celebrated a major conservation milestone as her High Seas Treaty officially entered into force, making what she considers a "new era" for global ocean protection.

Did you know...
People often called her 'Her Deepness' or 'The Sturgeon General'.

Did you know...
She spent an estimated 7,000+ hours (nearly a full year) exploring the ocean floor.



Did you know...
In 2018, she was awarded the Blue Planet Award for her work in ocean conservation.

Did you know...
She has been a vocal advocate for the protection of the world's oceans and has been instrumental in the creation of the High Seas Treaty.



Indigenous Crafts – By Xanthe



When I was in the Andaman Islands, we visited a group of people called the Karen. The Karen People live and farm in the rainforest of Middle Andaman. This small group originally came from Myanmar in 1925 where the Karen People are still persecuted by the Junta today.

The Karen people live around Webi Village where they farm 6 different types of rice. They eat rice, momo dumplings, spicy vegetables and 'nyau' a spicy fish paste! The people are very connected with the forest. We met Saw John who, like his father, is head of the tribe. He has great knowledge of how to use the rainforest plants for medicine. He understands the forest very well.

The people weave bamboo to make walls and floors for their homes. They also make baskets, animal traps, fishing lines, bows and catapults. The hand loom weaving the women do is a unique and colourful sight, full of patterns and lines and shapes. I wonder what other special weaving and crafts there are across the globe made by people in remote places? We must protect traditional crafts around the world!



Indigenous Craft refers to the skills & practices needed for the creation of objects, art, and functional items that are deeply rooted in the traditions and cultural heritage of indigenous communities. This craft often utilises locally sourced, natural materials and reflects a sustainable relationship with the environment. The indigenous way of life is at its core a sustainable way of life.





Turtle Conservation in Papua New Guinea

By Maximus

Endangered Turtle painting by Myrtle



My journey to Papua New Guinea began on a prop plane soaring high above rainforests and reefs with breathtaking views from every angle. We were immediately hit with the blazing Melanesian climate with temperatures ranging from 30 to 40 degrees on any day. The warmth of the Papua New Guinean people was immediately apparent, as if they were family. The feeling of walking through the lush rainforest and popping out at the most beautiful cove you have ever seen, was like walking through the gates of heaven.

The Conflict Islands Conservation Initiative that operates here is an incredible endeavour

We stayed in a bungalow with two canine companions, Buster and Lolly. Outside every door was a giant clam shell where you could wash the sand off your feet before entering. Most activities took place on the beach only a few feet away from the bungalow with many new types of sea life to be discovered. The water was so clear you could see the hairs on your legs. The coral reef untouched and unscathed by the outside world, an ecosystem that dropped off into an unexplored abyss a staggering 500 metres deep. After completing Padi training, scuba diving became a daily pursuit. My highlight was the surreal experience of diving with the Manta Rays, watching them flipping and gliding through the ocean with elegant grace only feet away. I also loved going down to inspect the coral nursery where new coral reefs formed, with corals that are more resilient to climate change, are being grown. One of my first encounters with a shark was so amazing, all of my previous fears of the species had simply vanished. The sight of turtles from underwater was equally as moving, marvelling at how they were unaffected by our presence.

The Conflict Islands' Conservation Initiative that operates here is an incredible endeavour in protecting and rehabilitating wildlife and their habitats. The turtle conservation was my favourite part of this. So far this year 1000 nests have been safely relocated to the hatchery by rangers who patrol the 21 islands at night, protecting nesting turtles from potential poachers. The eggs are left in individual nests in a hatchery where rangers monitor the sand temperature and watch for signs they are ready to hatch. When they are ready, the sand drops indicating the turtles are trying to escape. The rangers help them out very gently, which I got to do as well. The tiny turtles are then measured and weighed, with any unwell or misshapen turtles taken to the nursery for additional care until they are strong enough to be released into the wild. At 7 pm each evening, the turtle releasing began. The turtles were released on whichever island they were laid on and the magical thing is this is also where they will always return to nest themselves. Around 60,000 turtles are hatched and released this way every year. This is an incredible conservation endeavour that has helped take the Hawksbill turtle off the critically endangered list!



A nest of endangered but no longer critically endangered Hawksbill Turtles, with my hand to show their teeny size!



Helping to hatch (dig out) a nest that had collapsed on top, which tells you they are trying to come out.



THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE CONSERVATION ENDEAVOUR THAT HAS HELPED TAKE THE HAWKSBILL TURTLE OFF THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED LIST!

Wild Animals at Port Regis That We Love

By Mia & Alice

Rabbits

Rabbits are just like hares but slower and cuter. They have really big back toes. Sometimes they have little fluffy tails. Rabbits come in all shapes, sizes and colours. Some rabbits are white, ginger or spotted. Wild rabbits have fur that is brown and white. Rabbits can live in the wild or as a pet. They like to eat carrots, lettuce, and other vegetables. Wild rabbits love grasses.



Squirrels

Squirrels are beautiful creatures. There are grey squirrels everywhere, but red squirrels are very rare. They have very sharp claws so they can dig into the tree trunk as they run up it. They can run up trees very fast. They have long bushy tails.



Owls

Owls can see in the dark. They hunt at night. There are lots of owls in the woods at Port Regis. The boarders can hear them hooting in the night. They like to nest in the hollows of trees high up. At Port Regis there are mainly Barn owls or Tawny owls.

Foxes

Foxes are orange or red and white. They like to raid bins for leftover food. Sometimes foxes get very aggressive. They are omnivores and will eat anything really. They will hunt for their prey in the forest. Beware if you keep chickens! Foxes live in holes under tree roots or under buildings in gardens. There are lots of foxes in the woods at Port Regis. In Spring early in the morning, you can sometimes see them on a playing field.

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are so cute. In winter they hibernate in damp places. They are allergic to milk, but they love to eat worms, dog food, cat food and other creepy crawlies. They live in piles of leaves, sticks or dirt. A group of hedgehogs is called a litter. Before you light a bonfire, you should always check for hedgehogs. They are small mammals with a fluffy body and spikes all over their back. They roll into a spiky ball if they are in danger.



Beatrix Potter - By Athena



Beatrix Potter was a famous children's writer and illustrator. She was born in 1866 in England and loved animals from a young age. She kept many pets, such as rabbits and guinea pigs, which inspired her stories.

Beatrix Potter enjoyed drawing animals and nature. She loved the countryside, especially the Lake District. She wrote and illustrated The Tale of Peter Rabbit, which became very popular and she became famous. She went on to write many more books. She also studied animal and plant life in a scientific way.

Later in her life, as a pioneer of conservation, Beatrix bought farms and land to protect the countryside from development and urbanisation. She loved farm life and cared deeply about nature. Today we would call Beatrix Potter and eco warrior because she helped protect the environment.

When she died she gave all her land to the National Trust so they could protect and care for it and so people could enjoy it in the future. She was responsible for large areas of the Lake District becoming protected.



Seeds to plant in April - By Benjie



This is a great time of year to grow seeds because the cold nights are over and the days are getting longer.

The three fun seeds to grow are:

1. Pumpkins because you can sow the seeds in April (best by October when Halloween comes) you can harvest your pumpkin and carve silly or scary faces.
2. Sunflowers. These are easy to grow in April and the fun bit is you can try to grow a sunflower taller than you!
3. The last thing I would suggest is a potato. Guess how you grow them? You bury a seed potato in the ground and then it grows more potatoes!! When you dig them up it is like finding treasure!

Book Review - The Last Bear

By William

I would give this book a 5 star review!

In The Last Bear by Hannah Gold, the last polar bear is starving and injured creature that the main character April, discovers on Bear Island. It symbolises the impact of climate change and human negligence.

My favourite part of the book is April's secret bond with the bear. The secret she keeps about her friendship with the bear highlights the importance of privacy and trust. The readers who might enjoy this book would be animal lovers who appreciate stories that highlight endangered species and their habitats. Also, environmental defenders who are passionate about conservation and protecting wildlife.



Horn To Be Wild - By Felix



Rhinos are an endangered species. There are only around 15,000 white rhinos, 7,000 black rhinos, 4,000 Indian rhinos, 80 Sumatran rhinos and 50 Javan rhinos. People kill rhinos for their horns for medicine. But rhino horns are made of keratin which is like human hair and toenails. So eating the horn is like eating your own hair, it won't do you any good, it might just give you more germs.

Rhinos are ancient, special and tough creatures. Here are some interesting facts: The rhino horn is not actually attached to their skull and if a horn gets knocked off in a fight it will eventually grow back. Black and white rhinos are actually the same colour. Despite their names, they're both grey. Black rhinos have prehensile lips, which means their upper lip is hooked and works like a finger which makes it easier to eat leaves, flowers and shrubs. White rhinos have flat mouths making it easier for them to eat grass - garden secateurs vs the lawn mower! Rhinos have terrible eyesight, they can barely see something 30 metres away. They use their ears to hear predators. Rhinos use piles of poo as a way to send messages to other rhinos, and mark where their territory starts. Female rhinos have the longest pregnancy of any land mammal, 15-16 months. Because they only give birth every 3-5 years this means they struggle to recover their numbers from poaching. Rhinos love rolling in the mud! It's like sunscreen for them. The mud is cold and wet and keeps all the heat out and repels biting insects like mosquitos. A group of rhinos is called a CRASH! Please help save the rhinos!



Tigers in Thailand By Isla

I was born and raised in Thailand for 6 years and I became very interested in Thailand's diverse wildlife. Tigers being one of them. Tigers in Thailand are a

a critically endangered species. There are only about 179-223 tigers left and they can be found in the Western Forest Complex, a large conservation area in Thailand. The area is about 18,000 km squared and includes 19 different national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

Tigers were poached illegally up until the year 2000. Now most tigers are found in national parks or nature reserves, which keeps them from being illegally poached and protects the species. I have recently watched a documentary on tigers in Thailand, and it shows that people are monitoring the tigers with cameras in the jungles. This helps the conservationists locate the animals and keep them safe.

Tigers can also be found in the Phuket Tiger Kingdom Sanctuary, the Huai Kha Khaeng wildlife sanctuary and Khao Laem National Park. These provide the most important breeding grounds, hosting a stable population that disperses into neighbouring forests. But unfortunately, poaching is still happening in Thailand, so the important work continues!

Picture of me in the dense jungle in Khao Sae National Park, where tigers roam.



Me feeding a rescued elephant (from illegal logging) in Khao Samui.



I Love Elephants - By Josie

Elephants have long floppy ears and enormous tusks. They have grey skin, and they are beautiful animals with chocolatey eyes. They are also such fun animals! They are endangered animals because of poaching for their tusks. They live mainly in Africa and India, but the two types of elephants look a little different from each other. Elephants eat acacia leaves, shrubs, salt and melons. They eat a lot of food after which they drink a lot of water by finding a watering hole and drinking it through their trunk. I used to live in Kenya because my dad is in the army. We saw elephants when we were on safari in an open jeep. I saw them drinking from a water hole, and there were babies with them. When we were camping some monkeys opened our tent, got in and started using our toothbrushes!

A POEM

*Elephants are kind
Loving as well
Extremely wise
People poach them
Help them.
Amazing creatures
Now save them
Take good care of them
Save them!*



Tigers In India By Kasturika

There are lots of tigers in India nowadays. Tigers in India constitute 75 percent of the global population of tigers. There are around 58 tiger reserves as of 2025. In 2026 there were only 141 tigers. For many years people hunted them. The estimated population of tigers now is over 3,600 tigers. This happened because the people started to conserve the tiger. They made more tiger reserves where humans cannot go. Nowadays there are lots of places in India where tigers are, and humans can also visit them. You can do a tiger safari. This is good for tigers and humans because the humans can connect with the tigers, but the tigers are safe. Also, the safari business helps protect the tiger lands and provides a livelihood for the people who work there. A fun fact is that there are lots of varieties of tigers worldwide and in India the tigers are Bengal tigers. I have seen lots of tigers in India because my family loves nature. I saw baby tigers once, but I was very young so I can only just remember. Once I saw a tiger really close to me, we were safe in a vehicle. I could see its fur and smell it. Every tiger has different markings on its fur, and that is how they name them. One tiger is named after me - it was a new tiger in the park, and they needed to name it so they could monitor it. They are not always easy to see, if you are on safari, you might only see them once in three days. Also, parts of the safari park are protected from tourists to help keep the tigers safe. The landscape is quite overgrown, rocky and lots of trees. Once we were looking for tigers and it was so dense, we could not see any. We did see lots of deer though and wild peacocks. One of the most famous tiger reserves is called Ranthambore, in Rajasthan, but it can be a bit busy with people. Pench tiger reserve is my favourite, it is in Maharashtra. Photos below - me and my brother Kartikay on safari and a photo I took from the jeep.



Saving our waters! by Alexandra



Because of humans, the Earth's waters have become polluted. Luckily, we are getting better at not polluting our waters, and because of this, we could save them! One of the worst problems for the oceans is plastic pollution which is particularly harmful to all marine life. Half of the plastic made by humans is designed to be used once and thrown away and much of this plastic ends up in the ocean. Because plastic takes 400 years to break down it stays in the oceans for a long time. According to the National Geographic Kids magazine 700 different species of animals are severely threatened by plastic pollution in the ocean. It also gets washed up on beaches all over the world! Many sea birds get caught up in the ocean's plastic waste.

In the UK households throw away over 100 billion pieces of plastic packaging each year. But luckily the tide is very slowly beginning to turn! A team in Devon are working to help stop this. They are connecting communities along the coast of Devon and raising awareness about marine plastic pollution. "Thanks to funds from this partnership we have done 30 clean-ups in remote areas, collecting 12,000 KG of waste!" says the founder, Gary Iolliffe. It is not just the UK that has been working to stop plastic pollution. In France, a new vessel has been created - Meet The Manta, a ship specialising in cleaning our oceans. The Manta is a ship that tries to collect and process large quantities of floating plastic, and to stop it from turning into microplastics. The ship is also eco-friendly, and features wind turbines, solar panels and sails, to make sailing around the coast of France as eco-friendly as possible. This helps clean our waters and stop polluting our air! The Manta was created by The Sea Cleaners. I think that this is clever, and is also manta ray friendly, as the ship is designed to look like a manta ray! The Sea Cleaners have really helped clean our seas with this new ship.

5 trillion...
pieces of plastic (not
including microbeads –
minuscule plastic balls
found in toiletries like face
washes and toothpaste) are
estimated to be floating in
the world's seas.

In the North Pacific Ocean, a huge "ocean vacuum" is working. It is the largest working piece of ocean cleaning in the world and is designed by Dutch engineers. It is 600 meters long and drifts along with the current. It is U-shaped, and this means that it can catch plastic floating on the surface of the water, without harming any sea life below. It then funnels the plastic towards the shore, where it can then be recycled inland. It is powered only by the sun and waves, and although it is like a slow giant, it guards our oceans. I really like this amazing piece of technology, as it goes on without rest and clears up to 90% of the plastic from the ocean. There are also special vessels called River Interceptors, that aim to catch much of the rubbish before it reaches the sea. The Ocean Clean-up has begun! Let's all play our part by reducing our plastic consumption and not throwing it away.

20% of fish found during a recent expedition had plastic in their stomachs.

52% of sea turtles worldwide have accidentally eaten plastic rubbish in the ocean.

90% of seabirds eat plastic rubbish, mistaking it for food.

DUTCH ENGINEERS CREATED A 600-METER FLOATING "OCEAN VACUUM" THAT REMOVES TONS OF PLASTIC WASTE FROM THE SEA.

Kelp Blue – My Uncle the Earthshot Finalist

By Henry



My uncle Daniel Hooft is passionate about the sea, and in 2020 he founded Kelp Blue, based in Namibia. The company grows giant kelp on large-scale, offshore structures to re-wild our oceans, lock away carbon, and create a range of bio stimulants to move agriculture towards much more sustainable practices.

The waters off the coast of Lüderitz are rich in nutrients and provide the perfect conditions for growing the kelp. The species of brown algae creates underwater

forests that form vital habitats for all sorts of marine life. These kelp forests play a key role in coastal ecosystems by providing shelter and food, supporting biodiversity, and absorbing CO₂ from the water and atmosphere. Kelp naturally grows at sea and is self-sufficient; once planted, it will keep producing and growing for many years. No pesticides or fertilisers are needed so there is no bad effect for the environment.



My uncle talking to Prince William about Kelp Blue in South Africa.



In 2024, Kelp Blue was nominated for The Earthshot prize in Cape Town. The company was recognised for its innovative approach to ocean restoration and climate action. In addition, Kelp Blue won the Zayed Sustainability Prize at COP28 for its large-scale climate efforts and was named a finalist for the XPRIZE Carbon Removal competition. I would really like to go out there for my gap year to help with gathering kelp and learning about the process. I too love the ocean and would happily spend hours a day in it!

Exciting Seaweed News!

By Mrs Tabberer



Why seaweed? Seaweed is attractive as a packaging because it grows rapidly and is abundant, absorbs CO₂ and doesn't compete with food crops for land or freshwater. It produces materials that break down naturally after use without leaving micro plastics. These innovations help UK brands and food service businesses reduce reliance on fossil based plastics and meet tightening regulatory and consumer expectations.

Artists are increasingly utilizing seaweed as a sustainable, versatile, and organic material for art, transforming it into textiles, sculptures, paper, and dyes to highlight environmental issues.

Plantsea is a UK startup creating seaweed-based paper, boxes, bags and labels that can be recycled through normal paper mills. Notpla is a London based materials company that uses seaweed extracts to make plastic-free coatings for takeaway and food packaging. Their seaweed lined boxes are grease and water resistant but fully biodegradable and home compostable in a few weeks, offering a true replacement for traditional plastic lined board. Oceanium is based in Scotland, and they are developing bio packaging films and boards from farmed seaweed biomass. Kelpi is a company turning seaweed into high-performance barrier coatings that can be applied to paper and card, replacing plastics in food, personal care, and home care packaging while remaining recyclable and biodegradable.



Our Favourite Baby Sea Mammals

By Margot, Flora & Beatrice



Did you know that Hoover the seal, who was orphaned as a pup 50 years ago, shocked his handlers by saying his name, along with a few other short phrases, like 'get over here'!



Harbour Bay Seals

Harbour seals get their name because they often live near beaches, bays and sheltered coastlines where humans can easily see them. They are the seal whose head you might see popping up in a harbour if you are sitting on a jetty eating an ice cream or if you are swimming off a beach on holiday in the UK. Harbour seals are part of an animal group called Pinnipedian (it is scientific), which includes sealions, seals and walrus. Unlike most other pinnipeds, Harbour seals are more solitary creatures. Like humans they carry their baby for 9 months before giving birth. They swim with alternate back and forth movements with their hind flippers.

They are very cute because of their big round eyes, expressive faces which can look like they are smiling, their long whiskers and their soft round bodies. Their cute faces appear to pop up out of the water and say 'hello'. Shockingly, 64,000 tonnes of fishing gear are dumped in our amazing oceans every year! This seriously affects the seal population. As does disease. But seals are protected in the UK. We must keep our oceans clean and free of rubbish and disease to help the seals.



Baby Dolphins

Baby dolphins are called calves. They are born tail first to avoid drowning. They learn to swim immediately and rely on their mother's milk and protection for years. Their mothers use unique 'baby talk' to communicate with their babies. They also teach essential survival skills like hunting, socialising and navigating.

Baby Whales

Baby whales are called calves (like baby cows). They are born very big – 10-25 feet long – in warm shallow waters. They are immediately helped to the surface by their mothers to take their first breath. When they are young, they can hold their breath for 50 to 80 minutes. They can only eat small krill. They drink their mother's milk first though, which is very fatty and rich, and they can then gain weight quickly. They drink this milk for over a year. When they get older, they can hold their breath for much longer and they can eat other things like squid. They share a close protective bond with their mother. Calves are very playful – diving in the water and slapping their fins. A baby blue whale is the same size as an African elephant. They can remember songs and routes through the water that they learn from their mother.

Baby Otters



Baby Otters

Baby otters can be called pups, kits or kittens. They are born helpless but very quickly learn essential survival skills from their mothers. They have dense fur for warmth and learn to swim by being nudged and they communicate with chirps. They stay with their mothers for up to a year, learning to hunt and use tools like rocks to open seashells to eat. Baby sea otters float on their back, often anchored by seaweed called kelp. Their mums wrap them in the kelp to keep them safe while they go hunting. River otter pups are born blind, in dens, and are nursed frequently with rich fatty milk. A group of land otters is called a 'rump' and sea otters are called a 'raft'. Baby otters are very playful like children! We had an otter at Port Regis in Bob's Pond recently. There are fish in the pond for them to eat.



Middle school endangered animal art

Axolotls by Caspar

Axolotls are nearly extinct, and they are really cool. Axolotls are not fish, or reptiles, they are actually amphibians. They live for 10 to 15 years. They are only native to Lake Xochimilco near Mexico City. Their gills are feathery appendages that extend from either side of their heads. These gills are crucial for the axolotl's ability to breathe underwater and are a defining feature of this unique amphibian. The feathery structure of the gills increases the surface area for oxygen exchange allowing axolotls to efficiently extract oxygen from the water.

Axolotls retain their larval features throughout their lives – a phenomenon known as neoteny. This means they are 'babies forever!' They keep an aquatic lifestyle instead of developing lungs for terrestrial living. The presence of external gills throughout an axolotl's life is a prime example of neoteny. They are sometimes called smiling salamanders as their mouth looks like it is always smiling. They can grow up to 12 inches long and can be pink, brown, white or black. So take care of this amazing creature and let's save them from extinction!



Did you know:
If an axolotl loses any limbs, even their heart or part of their brain, they can regrow them!
A superpower of regeneration.

Teacher's Favourite Nature Fiction

– Mrs Fox

My list could go on forever!

The Secret Garden by Francis Hodgson Burnett, my 'Desert Island Book', the healing powers of nature, need I say more.

Galdora and the Woods Beyond by Modwena

Sedgewick and Young Kate by Eleanor Farjeon

Try the Marshall Cavendish Storyteller too, these beautiful versions I have been listening to since I was a very little girl and continue to share them with children as part of Forest School and Drama. I also listened to it with Joseph, my son.



Teacher's Favourite Nature Fiction

– Mrs Liddington

The Lost Words by Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris

Winnie-the-Pooh by A.A. Milne

Beetle Boy by M.G. Leonard



Born To Re Wild

Rewilding with Ben Goldsmith - by Ollie



Ben Goldsmith is a passionate rewilding advocate. Rewilding restores land to its natural, uncultivated state, allowing nature to recover and flourish. His podcast, *Rewilding the World*, shares uplifting stories of landscapes brought back to life. I visited Ben at his Somerset project, now five years old. On a grey February day, he described rewilding as "letting nature play out how it wants to play out on a piece of land." Walking between a conventional field and a rewilded one, he said it felt as though "the sound has been turned off" — such is the difference in birdlife. Farming, he stresses, is essential, but poorer land can often be better used for nature. Simple changes — wider field margins linked to neighbouring farms, or rewilding around water — can create powerful wildlife corridors.

Beavers are central to this work. "They are the most important animals in any rewilding project," Ben explained. By building dams, they slow water, create wetlands and reduce flooding downstream — holding back millions of litres. In a year when Dorset and Somerset have seen so much flooding, their role feels especially urgent. We splashed through a watery wonderland of dams, lodges and a chain of small ponds. The lodge itself — half underwater — is an extraordinary feat of architecture. Beavers, extinct in the UK for over 400 years, are now back, and transforming the land. "The beavers create these beautiful wetlands that are full of every kind of wildlife that you can imagine: frogs and ducks, birds and deer and everything just comes together to make this beautiful scene." Even wild pond turtles are back — a species that needs beavers to create their habitat.

Ben has also installed carefully designed boxes for wild English bees, which were occupied within days. Wildcats are another key species that have returned too. Larger than domestic cats, with amber eyes and thick, ringed tails, they move silently through the trees — the inspiration for the Cheshire Cat in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The first kittens were released this year. For food, they hunt squirrels, rats, mice, voles and birds. It is the domestic cat that kills so many songbirds, and the presence of wild cats will help reduce this so the songbird population goes up. Wildcats were wiped out 200 years ago — encouraged by Henry VIII who had an anti wildlife policy! But now they are protected and back where they belong.

There is still light farming. Traditional English Longhorn cattle and Tamworth pigs roam freely, keeping the land open so sunlight can reach flowers and birds. Rewilding, Ben says, is like baking a cake: you need a mix of different habitats — scrub, trees, grasses and blossom — and the cattle and pigs are the spoon that stirs the mixture.

Most wildlife returns naturally once land is restored, but some species need help. White storks, absent for 500 years, are being bred in a colony and will soon be released to build vast nests high in the trees. Turtle doves — rare and symbolic of love — are also part of "Operation Turtle Dove," a national effort to restore them to the land. They have a beautiful sound which Ben says is the most soothing sound on a summer's day, especially if you are feeling a bit glum. He played the sound to us on his phone. Ben is aiming to breed 200 this year and when they are ready, he will release them into the landscape like a cloud and fill all the trees around.

Ben believes the three essentials for wildlife in our English landscape are streams and ponds, scrub and hedges, and piles of dead wood — all things we are lucky to have at Port Regis. D Form will visit Ben's rewilding project in May, when the land will be bursting with blossom and birdsong.

Lastly, I asked Ben for any words of advice for Port Regis children to inspire them to get into nature, and he told us that "I think the most important thing is to spend a bit of time with nature as often as you can. You know that feeling when you are not having a good day, if you are feeling cross or upset, if you just get outside or go for a walk or sit down with a cup of tea and listen to the birdsong you just feel better". He also encouraged us to look for opportunities to volunteer: there's loads of conservation projects around Port Regis and further afield. We had an inspiring visit and learnt so much about rewilding from one of Britain's great ambassadors for nature. Ben is a font of knowledge and his sense of wonder for how nature springs back to life with rewilding is infectious. The more manicured countryside that we drove past on the way back to school looked quite boring in comparison to the rewilded land. His advice to PR children was simple: spend time in nature. If you feel cross or glum, step outside, listen to birdsong, and you will feel better. Volunteer where you can. Nature, given the chance, comes back — and its sense of wonder is infectious.



Beavers, storks, turtle doves & wild cats - all keystone species for restoring nature.





The Iris Project – Our new school charity. By Eliza, Michelle & Delilah

The Iris Project's aim is to enable young people to protect and restore nature. We met the founder Ben Goldsmith, and spent the morning learning about his passion for rewilding. On a walk around his land, we saw freshwater streams, abundant wildlife and dams built by beavers he has reintroduced. Ben believes that when nature is given space, it can replenish and flourish – and he is proving that by carefully restoring habitats and bringing wildlife back. His rewilding is a tribute to his daughter Iris. Afterwards, we interviewed Ben about the charity. He told us about Iris and how much she loved the natural world, and creating The Iris Project was his way of honouring her.

By Eliza



The Iris Project was set up in memory of Iris Goldsmith. She found peace, joy and inspiration in nature, and her father believed the best way to honour her was to help other young people protect nature.

The charity awards prizes to youth-led environmental projects worldwide, focusing particularly on the southern hemisphere. Young people aged 14–24 can apply. The three awards are:

- Seed Prize – \$5,000 for a new idea to protect or restore nature
- Stem Prize – \$10,000 for a recently launched project needing support
- Iris Prize – \$15,000 for an established project with potential to grow

By Michelle



Upcoming fundraising plans –
Environment Day & Colour Run
on 26th March,
Dog Show on 25th April
Summer Fete on 20th June



Breathe Mongolia



Viaje Al Microcosmos



Project Lawud



The Iris Project's aim is to enable young people to protect and restore nature. The charity has been running for five years and has already supported many inspiring projects. In 2025, the Iris Prize went to Breathe Mongolia, tackling Mongolia's air-pollution crisis through education, policy influence and community action. The Stem Prize supported a team in Mexico restoring the Santa Catarina River, where scientists have recorded rising biodiversity. The Seed Prize was awarded to Project Lawud, protecting the endangered dugong in the Philippines.

In 2024, the Iris Prize winners were the Uru Uru Team in Bolivia. Lake Uru Uru, once home to thousands of flamingos, has been devastated by pollution and drought. The team is restoring a 21-kilometre stretch using native reeds to absorb heavy metals and rebuild habitats.

The Iris Project is building a global community of confident young leaders restoring nature and influencing change. They believe in the next generation – in us.

Our Charity Committee is planning fundraising events including Environmental Day in March, The Big Give, an Environmental Summit, a sponsored Colour Run, a Dog Show, a car boot sale and a Summer Fete. Thank you for your support. Together, we can help restore nature and raise funds for this remarkable charity – with thanks from Ben, its founder.

By Delilah

www.justgiving.com/campaign/irisprojectportregisschool
Scan the QR code to donate



Agroforestry - How it Helps Farmers, Nature & Our Climate

By Rafferty



Agroforestry is new way of farming that is slowly spreading around the world. This is where farmers mix animals, crops and trees together. For example - growing crops with trees or letting animals graze in trees. This is becoming increasingly popular because it helps farmers from having to cut down trees to create space for crops, and this helps nature and protects our climate.



How agroforestry helps farmers

Agroforestry helps farmers because the trees keep the soil full of nutrients and stops the soil from eroding in heavy rain fall. Soil quality can be degraded by unsustainable farming methods. Also, the tree canopies protect the animals in strong heat. Farmers can also make extra money from agroforestry because if the trees produce fruit, they can sell the extra produce.

How agroforestry helps nature

Agroforestry helps nature because the trees or shrubs provide food and homes to birds and insects. This increase of wildlife, especially butterflies and bees, also help pollinate the crops. The trees help slow down the rainwater running off the land and stopping it from polluting the sea and rivers. This also is helping fish and other marine animals and plants that rely on good water.

How agroforestry helps our climate

Agroforestry helps our climate because trees take in carbon dioxide and store it in their leaves, trunks and root systems. This helps our climate because it reduces the amount of greenhouse gas put into our atmosphere. A good example of an agroforestry project near Port Regis is the Kingston Lacy Estate managed by the National Trust. Over 5000 trees have been planted, increasing habitats for wildlife and creating natural grazing for Ruby Red Devon cattle. They are restoring the rivers in the area. Further planting of hedgerows and native trees is connecting ancient woodlands together and they are recreating lost water meadows and restoring chalk grasslands.

Conclusion

Agroforestry shows that nature and farmers can work together - Making farming better for humans, animals, plants and our climate.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING

By Barney



Sustainable Farming! I know what you're thinking - what is it? Don't worry, soon you'll know, and how it helps the environment be the best it can possibly be.

The first time that the idea of 'sustainable farming' became official was around 1977. The United States Department of Agriculture said that it was a way of farming that would help farms stay in business and make life better for farmers and for nature. Although the USDA claimed that this was a new idea, indigenous communities have been farming in Earth-Friendly ways long before this term was made.

On our planet, farming has a big impact. Even the slightest change in how we do things could save countless areas of wildlife all over the world. The key ideas of making farming more sustainable are simple. These are the four ways that can help farming be more Earth-Friendly.

1. Happy Soil, Happy Planet

If you want the key to growing good food, read this. The secret is that you need healthy soil. Instead of digging up the soil every year, we should try to leave it alone as much as possible. This way it will stay healthier. Also, farmers should plant special crops (like clover) in the cold months so that the soil doesn't get beaten up by strong winds and rain. The clover would act like a cover to protect the soil.

3. Helping Nature And Wildlife

Nowadays, more farms in the UK are being made to be 'homes' for nature. This is good because it attracts wildlife that will help the environment become better. A way to make your farm eco-friendlier is to plant hedgerows. These act as a fence but importantly they act as roads for all kinds of animals like bugs and birds to move around safely. Also beetle banks are little strips of wild grass that are like a home for pest-eating bugs. This would cut out the need for chemical sprays because the bugs are doing the job for us. This reduce in chemicals will help bees and butterflies thrive.

2. Crop Rotation

Think of it like musical chairs but with fields. Farmers shouldn't plant the same crop in the same field every year but rather swap fields every time. This will help keep farming sustainable every year because the plants are very demanding and so if you swap the fields, the soil won't get as tired and worn out. Imagine having your 2-year-old wingy child, maybe you would get a babysitter to take the load off you so you can get some rest? It is the same with soil, it needs to rest. Also, this method stops pests getting used to one spot.

4. Smart technology and energy

If farms would like to be more effective, they should use modern sustainable technology. For example, GPS tractors. Tractors are starting to use GPS so that they will drive in the same spots every time so that they squish less soil. And finally, renewable energy. The smart farmers of the UK will use sources like wind turbines and solar panels to make their own electricity. If you follow these four easy steps, you will make our farming community 10 times better than it is now. Let's hope that we can make a change in the farming and agricultural world.

Middle School Earthshot Prize Winners



All of Middle School held their own Earthshot competition. All children entered the competition and came up with brilliant inventions, ideas and solutions to help save our planet! The winners were Piran and Abrielle. And the runners up Athena and Edith.

Abrielle invented a solar powered fridge - it tackles food waste, water shortage and renewable energy. It runs on solar power. It has a water filter within it to make dirty water drinkable and any undrinkable water goes out of a pipe to water the garden. It also warns you food is going out of date so there is less food waste.

Athena invented a Seed Planter - its aim is to grow trees and save animals. The machine keeps the seeds in its tummy ready to plant. It has a sensor that knows where the deforestation is, and plants the seeds. It is solar powered and automatically goes to the nearest farms to recharge if it runs out.

Piran invented the Namib Aqua Dome - designed for countries that do not have much water, deserts and little rainfall. Inspired by the Namib Desert beetle, the spikes on the dome collect moisture from the air in cooler hours. The water then trickles down the pipe system, into the water system and straight to the taps. There are also tanks inside to store the water, so nothing goes to waste.

Edith invented the Emission Mission - to eliminate air pollution from factories and power plants. A filter in the chimney to separates out the oxygen, carbon and other gases. The oxygen goes back into the air, the carbon goes to a greenhouse for tree saplings that are growing, and the other gases go back to the power plant in a different tube. In the greenhouse there is a filter that releases oxygen out. And when the saplings are ready, they are planted out to reduce deforestation.



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How Countries Are Using Laws and Technology to Protect and Rebuild the Environment

By John



Over the past few decades, it has become clear that environmental problems like climate change, pollution and deforestation are serious global issues. Because of this, many countries have started taking stronger action to protect the environment and even repair some of the damage that has already been done. Governments are using both laws and new technology to try to make a difference.

One of the biggest international efforts is the Paris Agreement. This agreement was made in 2015 and brings together countries from around the world to fight climate change. The main goal is to limit global warming and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Each country sets its own goals for cutting emissions and reports on its progress. While not every country moves at the same pace, the agreement shows that nations recognize climate change as a shared problem that requires global cooperation.

Many countries have also created their own environmental laws. For example, in the United States, laws like the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act were passed to control pollution and protect public health. These laws set limits on harmful emissions and make companies responsible for reducing pollution. In Europe, the European Green Deal is a major plan aimed at making the European Union climate-neutral by 2050. It includes goals for reducing carbon emissions, promoting renewable energy, and restoring wildlife.

Another important strategy countries use is putting a price on pollution. Systems like the EU Emissions Trading System create financial incentives for companies to reduce their carbon emissions. If a company pollutes less, it can save money or even sell unused emissions allowances. This encourages businesses to invest in cleaner energy and more efficient technology.

Technology also plays a huge role in protecting and rebuilding the environment. Renewable energy sources like solar panels and wind turbines are becoming more common and affordable. Countries such as China, Germany, and India have invested heavily in renewable energy, helping reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. Advances in battery storage are also making it easier to store renewable energy for use when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing.

In addition, modern technology helps monitor environmental damage. Satellites and drones can track deforestation, measure air pollution, and observe changes in oceans and ice caps. This data allows governments to respond more quickly and enforce environmental laws more effectively. Technology is also helping with restoration efforts. For example, some organizations now use drones to plant trees in areas that have been heavily deforested, speeding up the reforestation process.

Overall, countries are combining legal action and technological innovation to address environmental problems. While there is still a long way to go, these efforts show that governments understand the importance of protecting the planet. By continuing to strengthen environmental laws and invest in clean technology, nations can work toward rebuilding ecosystems and creating a more sustainable future for everyone.

Red Kite Build - Eco Builder

By Benjie



Barn conversion with a green growing roof

My Uncle, Julian Scott - Bolton (Old Port Region) is an eco-builder, which means he tries to use natural and sustainable materials where possible in his designs and builds. His company is called Red Kite Build.

He builds houses out of timber, straw bales, cork and recycled materials. This is not only good for the planet but also creates a natural, healthy environment to live in. Buildings that are made of straw bales insulate the house which means they use less energy to stay warm. I love the green roofs because they fit in with the nature around. He inspires my life because he is creative and so environmental.



Green Business Practices

By Hugo

Green business is something more and more companies and entrepreneurs are working on as it is essential for our future. As we begin to see the impact of both climate change and pollution, all businesses have a greater responsibility to protect our planet. Green business practices include every aspect of how a business is run, from the office itself to the product and the people.

OFFICE

One way companies can make green business practices happen is by making their offices more environmentally friendly. This can be done by using less electricity, turning off lights and computers when they are not needed, recycling paper and plastic, reducing single use items and saving water.

PRODUCTS

Businesses can also be more environmentally friendly by changing how their products are made. Using recycled or natural materials helps reduce waste and pollution. Companies can design products that last longer, so people do not have to replace them as often. Using less packaging that can be recycled also helps the environment.

SUPPLIERS

Another important green business practice is choosing environmentally responsible suppliers. Companies can work with suppliers who care about sustainability and fair working conditions. Reducing pollution by buying local materials and using cleaner delivery methods, like swapping flying to shipping, can also help lower pollution.

PEOPLE

Green business practices are also about the people who are employed. Companies can treat their workers fairly, offer safe working conditions, and support local communities. Teaching employees about sustainability and encouraging them to make eco-friendly choices helps create a positive impact both inside and outside the business.

I think the most important green business decision is to question everything you do. Who makes your product? Where does your energy come from? Where does your waste go? How is your product produced? Are you impacting our planet in a positive way? The more questions you ask, the more solutions you'll find.

By putting green business practices into place, companies can help protect our planet for future generations. Small changes make a big difference. Green business is a responsibility to ensure a healthier and more sustainable future for everyone.



Zac Goldsmith



When I was a child, I was obsessed by David Attenborough and Jane Goodall. I watched their films, read their books, and I became fascinated and in love with nature.

As I grew older, I began to understand how much harm we are causing the natural world - cutting down the forest, mangroves and savannahs, homes to gorillas, elephants and many other magical creatures. I learnt that we are hunting some of them to extinction and filling their homes with pollution. I decided that

I would do everything I could to stand up for nature.

I began by editing a magazine called The Ecologist, which told stories of heroes who fight for nature and exposed companies and people who harm nature. After a decade I entered politics and was elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) for Richmond, where I grew up. In Parliament I championed animal welfare, conservation and ocean protection. One campaign resulted in the creation of the Blue Belt - a vast network of marine protected areas in our nature-rich and pristine oceans around tiny islands that are still British Overseas Territories. If put all together, the area protected is bigger than India.

I was then asked to join the government as a Minister in three departments: Environment, Overseas Development and the Foreign Office. It was a dream job, allowing me to focus on international environmental work. At the major Climate Conference, the COP26 in 2021, I was able to persuade the big forest countries to commit to stop deforestation by the end of 2030. It was called the Glasgow Leaders Declaration, and many of us are still working to keep the leaders to their promises! Today I work with major funders and organisations to protect the three great forest basins: Congo, Amazon and South East Asia. And we are working to have the Antarctic Ocean declared a Marine reserve.



Summit Speakers



Sophia Vuksanovic

Senior Fundraiser, The Iris Project & Global Fund for Children -



I work as a fundraiser for The Iris Project, where we're building a community of young people committed to protecting and restoring their local natural environments. We do this through the annual Iris Prize, which awards

funding to help turn young people's ideas into action. We also provide tools and resources to support them along the way.

My role is to find creative ways to raise money so we can support more and more young environmental changemakers. I also fundraise for the Global Fund for Children. I began my career in the charity sector working in volunteer communications and engagement, before moving into fundraising for programmes advancing human rights and democracy, and then joining The Iris Project.

My love of nature began in Croatia, visiting my grandparents in the countryside. They grew delicious fruit and vegetables under the Mediterranean sun - plums, apples and peaches that I could pick straight from the tree. Even the hornets and the occasional snake couldn't dampen the magic of those gardens. I loved helping to care for them and seeing what each year would bring.

Young people truly inspire me. Even in my short time at The Iris Project, I've been amazed by our winners and runners-up - young people around the world protecting the places they know and love with creativity and determination. I believe they often have the most imaginative solutions to climate change. It worries me when I see images of landfill, illegal waste dumping, or hear about sewage spills in Lake Windermere. We must remember that many generations after us will depend on this planet, just as we have.

ENVIRONMENT DAY - 26th March 2026

Protecting nature and our planet

Creative Arts Parade - costumes, music, singing, poetry and art, all inspired by the natural world.

Hands-on activities across the school - tree and seed planting, creative workshops, geography quiz, creating a campaign for an environmental charity, animal rescue stories, the PR Tree Trail, campfire cooking, STEAM challenges and more.

11.30am - Environmental Summit

We're delighted to welcome an inspiring panel of environmental experts. Pupils will lead the discussion, armed with thoughtful questions about how we can restore and protect our planet.

30 Mile Menu - Market Day lunch.

3.00pm Sponsored Colour Run - raising money for The Iris Project.

Jade Brudenell



Founder & Director of The Conservation Collective

The Conservation Collective is an organisation which galvanises global support for locally led environmental action. Conservation Collective was founded in 2020 and has launched and supported 20 locally rooted Foundations and helped raise over £23 million to support long-term nature recovery around the world.

Jade is spearheading a powerful movement that connects people and businesses who care deeply about a place with the grassroots champions



working to protect and restore ecosystems, help native species to thrive, reduce pollution and build climate resilience. She leads a central team of 10, based in the UK, which is building capacity through a systems-change approach and enabling the global network to scale.

As well as building the strategy to grow the organisation, fundraising is Jade's primary remit: unlocking new sources of capital, building strategic partnerships, and ensuring funds are deployed where they can deliver the greatest and most lasting impact. Career highlights include securing major funding partnerships with bands, brands and travel companies, with an aligned interest, driving support to communities taking action to protect and restore nature.

Having grown up in the English countryside and returned to live in Hampshire with her own family a decade ago, Jade has a close affinity to nature, relying on stomping around in the mud with her dog to keep her sane against the backdrop of a busy life with work and children. Jade loves to travel, snorkel, and explore the world. Working with passionate people fighting with determination and optimism to protect their own patch of the planet, often in the face of major environmental challenges, is one of the best parts of her job.

Jade is continually inspired by the results achieved through the Collective - from turtle monitoring in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, to farmers in Devon transitioning to nature-friendly practices, leopard corridors in Sri Lanka, and strengthened marine protection in Greece and across the Mediterranean.

Find out more at www.conservation-collective.org



Hashem Arouzi



Founder & Chief of Ahbstra

I was very fortunate growing up to be not wanting of many of the things that those of us living comfortable lives in the west take for granted, such as shelter, food, water, heat and electricity. Through extensive travelling and study over the years, it began to dawn on me that I was taking for granted, what much of the world considers a luxury:

My life after university was based in cities where exposure to the natural world was limited and I continued to pay little attention to the harm our modern way of living was causing the environment.

My awakening came later in life after my children were born and it no longer sat well with me that we are depleting the world's natural resources and polluting everything around us and I had done nothing to help.

This realisation became even more urgent after facing severe water shortages at our house in Ibiza. It was at this point that I decided to do something about it and devote my working life to address the worsening water crisis, which is now affecting over half the world.

Being always fascinated by science since I was a child, I held the conviction that the escalating water crisis could be addressed through bold technological innovation. Through extensive research I came across a newly invented substance that scientists had been experimenting on in their laboratories, that absorbed water from the air. That's when it occurred to me that I could create a machine that could harvest water from the air using science and such a machine could help millions of people around the world. After 7 years of hard work and a dedicated team we have built the world's first machine, (see below - Ahbstra), that can make water from the air using advanced science, proving that curiosity, combined with a purpose and hard work, anything is possible.

Summit Speakers



Peter Littlewood



Director of Better Planet Education.

I first got really interested in the environment when I was about 16 and started helping out as an instructor on residential environmental courses for primary schools. I was hooked! By 18, I was leading groups myself and seeing first-hand how learning about the environment could transform young people's attitudes. I decided this was something I wanted to do more of, because it was really making a difference. That passion led me to join Better Planet Education's staff in 1993, and I've been the charity's Director since 1999. Based near Sherborne - just down the road from Port Regis - I lead a small but ambitious organisation that provides free environmental education to schools across the UK, with a global reach through our website at betterplaneteducation.org.uk.

I'm especially keen to help young people understand climate change. By the time you get to my age, you're really aware of how much the climate has changed during your lifetime. Understanding it - and how we can help to slow it down and eventually reverse some of the damage - is vital. I'm honest about the challenges ahead, too. We need to find ways to stop taking more from our planet than can be replaced naturally. That's going to mean some big changes. But the more we talk about how things might change, the more chance there is that we'll work it out together. So, what keeps me going? Young people like you! The whole point of Better Planet Education is to inspire today's young people - tomorrow's adults - to look after our world. When I see that happening, it gives me plenty of reasons to hope! I'm really looking forward to visiting Port Regis for Environmental Day and hearing your ideas and questions.



Better Planet Education

Ahbstra - By Caspian & Soraya



Ahbstra is a company that our father founded. It works on a very big problem: not enough clean water. Even though it rains an awful lot in Dorset and we have lots of water, many people in other countries don't have easy access to clean drinking water in the same way we do. Rivers dry up, wells run out of water, and rain does not fall often enough. Our dad's goal is to solve this problem by making water in a new and clever way using chemistry and engineering. He has built a special machine that can take water straight out of the air. Even though we cannot see it, there is water in the air all around us. This is called water vapour. On humid days, there is a lot of water in the air, but we cannot see it. On dry days, there is still some water, just much less.

The Ahbstra machine works by sucking the air from outside into the machine. When the air is in the machine, it passes through a very special powder called MOF, which stands for Metal Organic Framework. This powder is very important. It is designed to grab water from the air, even when the air is very dry. The powder is like a super-strong sponge you use in baths, but instead of soaking up water you can see, it soaks up water you cannot see.

Once the powder has collected enough water vapour, the machine gently removes it and makes the water come out of the powder as liquid water. The machine produces over 500 litres per day, which is the same as 350 large Evian bottles. This water can be collected and used for whatever we want such as drinking, washing, cooking, or watering plants. Did you know that the main use of water in a home's consumption is flushing the loo?! This machine is essential for people in places suffering from droughts and where there are no more rivers and lakes. One of the great things about our dad's machine is that it can work using sunlight. Solar power is a renewable energy source that collects energy from the sun. This means it can make water without harming the environment. It also means the machine can work in places far away from cities.

Ahbstra's invention shows how science and engineering can help people and protect the planet. By turning air into water, the company is helping to create a future where everyone can have clean water.



We believe every person should have control over their most essential resource. No home should become unlivable, and no project should be forced to stop because water has run out. We imagine a future where water independence is standard and where every home, community and development can thrive in any climate.



Ahbstra's invention



PLANTING TREES

By Ellie

Trees are incredibly important for us to be able to live as they help remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and turn it in to oxygen. The leaves draw carbon dioxide from the air, a gas that is constantly released from our lungs, chimneys and cars. The carbon dioxide enters each leaf through tiny little holes usually on their underside. A single tree can also be a home to over 1,000 different types of insects, spiders, birds, and small animals. If you live near Tisbury, you should go and visit the Accent Yew tree in the St John the Baptist church yard. It is estimated to be approximately 4,000 years old. It is one of the oldest living trees in Britain, with a girth of over 10 meters. I can only imagine how many animals have inhabited this tree over the years.

Planting a tree helps all of life in the UK, by sheltering animals and birds, cleaning the air, helping to stop flooding and making our life greener. If you want to plant a tree all you need is a sapling, a spade, a hole in the ground and some water. The whole of the United Kingdom has planted over 68.5 million trees since 1972. Wow – that is worth remembering! If you ever decide to plant a tree the best time to do so is from May to March, this allows roots to establish in warm, moist soil before spring. If you do plant a tree you need to watch out for putting the seed in too deep as this prevents the seeds from breathing causes the roots to rot.

At Port Regis about 90 acres out of a 150 are woodland. We have a great variety of trees at our school including oak, beech, hazel and chestnut. Port Regis has planted 1000s of trees, probably more than 10,000 in the last few decades. The children and staff help to plant them, but many are planted by our incredible grounds men. Our rarest tree is no doubt the Lucombe Oak on the north lawn. Our oldest trees are probably the oaks on the golf course, they are around 350-500 years old. In 2022 we worked alongside The Queen's Green Canopy which was an initiative created to mark The Queen's Jubilee. The school also planted saplings through the Woodland Trust, a charity which has planted more than 69 million trees since they began just over 50 years ago. But we can always do more.

So, I hope after you have read this you will realise that we are very much a school with a 'Green Vision', and I am very proud of Port Regis after how much we have done in the last few years for the environment.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ONE MATURE TREE CAN PROVIDE ENOUGH OXYGEN FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR TO BREATHE FOR A WHOLE YEAR?



The Queen planted a beautiful copper beech outside the sports centre in the 1980's.



Senior Art Scholars landscape paintings



No Mow May and the Magic of Wildflowers

By Cara



No Mow May is a conservation campaign that encourages people and local councils not to mow their lawns during the month of May. This helps wildflowers grow, which is important because they provide food and homes for pollinators like bees and butterflies. These insects are vital for nature, so helping them is a really big deal.

I think every school should take part in No Mow May to help increase wildlife. The best part is how easy it is to help. If you want to support wildlife in your garden, all you must do when May arrives is... nothing! With No Mow May, you can relax and enjoy watching nature grow, without worrying that the grass is too long or thinking, "I need to cut the grass tomorrow" because you don't!

When grass is left to grow, tiny flowers start to appear. Daisies, buttercups and clover pop up where there used to be plain green lawn. Before you know it, bees are buzzing, butterflies are fluttering, and suddenly your garden feels alive. Even a small patch of unmown grass can make a difference.

We're lucky where we live, because the countryside around us is already very good at growing wildflowers. In places like the Nadder Valley and on the chalk hills nearby, wildflower meadows grow naturally when the land is looked after carefully. In summer these meadows are full of colour, with different flowers growing side by side, and insects everywhere.

Wildflower meadows are like giant versions of No Mow May gardens. They show what can happen when nature is given time and space. Birds, insects and small animals all depend on these places, and they remind us that nature doesn't need much help from us just a chance.

No Mow May is a simple idea, but it can lead to big changes. If gardens, school fields and roadside verges are left to grow, even for a short time, they can become mini meadows. And if we notice how beautiful that looks, maybe we'll be happy to let nature grow a little more often not just in May.



Wild Flowers At Port Regis

Teacher's Favourite Nature Fiction – Mrs Cardozo

Corfu Trilogy by Gerald Durrell, especially My Family and Other Animals!

James Herriot – Country Vet tales in Yorkshire

Flower fairies



Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell has a strong green message, even though it's fantasy.

Just So Stories – a different take on nature!

Protected Lands

By Giannie



We should never take for granted our protected lands – beautiful areas of nature for wildlife to flourish. These landscapes are even more special in our age when the environment is under threat and when it can feel like everything is falling apart. But who helped to create these protected areas of the environment?

The first person to donate land to the National Trust was Fanny Talbot in 1895 when she gave 4.5 acres of her cliff top land in Wales. It was then called 'The National Trust for

Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty', and she was a friend of the founders. She wanted to preserve her land for everyone to enjoy under the custodianship of a group of people she could trust to look after it well. When Mrs Fanny Talbot donated this special piece of land, she did not know that the National Trust would become one of Europe's largest conservation charities and in the UK. It currently looks after nearly 260,000 hectares of land.

Matilda Talbot was another hero that stepped up for nature when she donated the historic Lacock Abbey and most of the surrounding Wiltshire village to The National Trust in 1944. A beautiful rural and historical spot enjoyed by many tourists, also a popular destination for Harry Potter fans.



Beatrix Potter is one of the most significant donors to The National Trust. She donated over 4000 acres of Lake District countryside and 15 farms when she died in 1943.

The woodland trust was started in 1972 to fight the destruction of ancient woodlands and is now the UK's largest woodland conservation charity. They have planted 68.5 million trees to help our environment. Corporate Partners like Amazon and B&Q have surprisingly donated to The Woodland Trust, as have many individuals.

Other main charities, landowners and agencies who protect land include the many wildlife trusts, including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Land Trust, Natural England, The European Nature Trust, National Parks, The Forestry Commission and Rewilding Britain. There are also many private individuals protecting the land for nature – from Alladale in Scotland to Cabilla in Cornwall.

Many people love The National Trust, as I do. I am grateful to all the companies and individuals who have either donated or who are working to protect our lands and species. Thank you.



Temperate Rainforests in Great Britain

By Clementine



Rainforests do not only exist in tropical countries. Great Britain is home to the very rare and unique temperate rainforest. In fact, they are thought to be more threatened than tropical rainforests. They are a haven for scarce plants, fungi, as well as remarkable birds and mammals. They are full of trees like oak, birch, rowan,

holly, alder and hazel, but they also have open glades, or rivers cutting through rocky gorges. What makes them special is the plant life that covers the ground – the lichens, mosses and ferns that are like a velvet carpet wrapping over and around the trees and rocks.

These rainforests require climate conditions that occur over less than 1% of the world. They like to grow near the sea as that climate is milder, higher in humidity and has regular rain. Ideal conditions for temperate rainforests are found along the UK's western seaboard – West Coast of Scotland, North and West Wales, Ireland, Devon and Cornwall. There are also pockets of this type of rainforest in Japan, New Zealand, Chile and Canada. The closest temperate rainforests to Port Regis are only one and a half to 2-hour drive away in Dartmoor and Exmoor, or a bit further in Cornwall.

Temperate rainforests once covered 20% of the British Isles, now they cover less than 1%. Only 130,000 hectares (or less) across Scotland, Wales, and England remains. 98% of our woodland has been destroyed over the centuries. Yet work is under way to restore our rainforests, expanding and creating more of this precious habitat.

Many animals and plants depend on these rainforests to survive. Yet it is not just animals and plants who will not survive without these rainforests. Without the rainforests the air would be more polluted which would mean that we would be breathing more harmful gasses. They help to balance the eco-systems and protect against flooding and erosion, and they are amazing for storing carbon in their soil which is very rich and stores it when the trees grow.

Fingle Woods in Devon is a good rainforest to visit – not far from Port Regis. It is managed by The National Trust and The Woodland Trust. We must protect these unique rainforests.

*Temperate
Rainforests in Devon*



Chalk Streams

Chalk streams are internationally rare, fed by natural springs, and provide a rich habitat for wildlife. England has 85% of the world's 200 chalk streams and many of them are on our doorstep at Port Regis.

The closest chalk stream is the Nadder. However, there is also the River Frome, Wylfe, Bride, Itchen, the Test and River Piddle and more. They are famous for gin-clear water and support many endangered species like water voles, otters, salmon and trout. These habitats are at risk and need protecting.



Teacher's Favourite Nature Fiction – Mr Egerton

The Explorer by Katherine Rundell transports you to the Amazon
Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo takes you to a desert island
The His Dark Materials trilogy by Philip Pullman takes you to the Oxfordshire fens, the arctic, and to the natural worlds of parallel universes



A Conversation With A Conservationist: A Future for Africa's Flora and Fauna – By Mrs Handaji



Almost since the day he was born, my elder son has been happiest outdoors. As a tiny baby, birdsong soothed him instantly. Now, at nearly 7 years old, he is enchanted by the Port Regis woods and knows the name of every tree. Thoughts of his future often occupy my mind. What kind of world he will inherit—politically, socially, and environmentally? Will he grow up in an increasingly nationalistic Europe that questions his half-Moroccan identity? And what of the natural world itself? Will he still be able to sit in a garden listening to birds? Will elephants, giraffes and rhinos still roam the

landscapes where I was fortunate enough to see them? Climate change is casting doubt over these once-secure assumptions.

My brother, Henry Bailey, is a conservationist in East and Central Africa, and he recently offered me a grounded but hopeful perspective on what the future may hold. Speaking from a national park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, accompanied by the chorus of frogs and birds through our patchy connection, Henry explained that while climate change is not new, humanity is now consuming natural resources faster than nature can recover. This accelerates environmental shifts beyond the pace many species can adapt to. I expected Henry to share stories of majestic wildlife or daring rescues, but instead he spoke—passionately—about grass. Grasslands, he said, are vital ecosystems that support countless African species, yet they are threatened by poor land management. As Earth Overshoot Day reminded us, humanity is borrowing from the planet's 'natural capital', stretching nature's built-in insurance system past its limits. When we overuse landscapes, nature pushes back, decreasing productivity in an effort to repair itself. The result is desertification—and shrinking habitats for both people and wildlife.

Henry's examples brought home how deeply human survival is intertwined with the natural world. He described nomadic pastoralists whose livelihoods rely on the ancient rhythm between sun, grass, cattle, and people. Traditionally, their movement allowed grasslands time to regenerate. But with growing populations and limited space, grazing pressures intensify, the soil cannot recover, and the desert advances. This pushes pastoralists into protected areas, disrupting wildlife habitats and destabilizing the delicate balance between humans and nature. When I had lunch with Henry in a local pub this week, I asked whether solutions exist. He insisted they do—but only if conservation places communities at its heart. He pointed to Kenya's Mugie Conservancy, where collaboration with pastoralists has restored ecosystems and strengthened security. When drought and unmanaged cattle influx once caused wildlife deaths and local instability, Mugie stepped in to manage herds sustainably. The result: healthier grasslands, improved livelihoods, and reduced poaching.

Conservation, is not only about saving animals; it is about sustaining the entire web of life—humans included. Henry reassured me that anyone, anywhere, can make a difference. A bug hotel in your garden, reducing single-use plastics—small actions add up. A thousand tiny choices can shape a better planet, our children might inherit with hope.



CORAL REEFS – BY C FORM

Mrs Moussalli's class have come up with important and interesting facts about coral reefs, why they are important and should be saved, and how they can be protected.

They help fish survive and provide a food source for many fish.	A coral reef is home to 25% of all marine species. It also produces food for us and protects our coasts from tsunamis and erosion.
They are beautiful and we need to look after all our nature on Earth.	By letting coral die we are ultimately putting humans at risk.
Coral polyps, algae and organisms such as phytoplankton are interdependent – if one fails the rest will be impacted.	The ecosystem absorbs carbon dioxide and produces oxygen vital for our survival.
Climate has a big impact on coral reefs because if the sea temperature becomes too warm the algae leaves and the coral polyps can die.	Coral polyps get along if they are happy, this makes them strong and healthy!
Change in the environment such as temperature, acidity and sunlight may all cause coral to die.	We can join beach cleanups to reduce marine pollution which damages coral.
Protect our coral reefs so that future generations can also enjoy and learn from them.	Coral reefs help stop coastal erosion and provide habitats for fish.
Allow sustainable tourism so people can enjoy and learn from the reefs in a safe way.	Stop illegal fishing near coral reefs.
Support groups running coral nurseries.	Spread the word – tell other people what we have learned.
Stop trawler fishing destroying our seabed.	They protect coral for you.

Middle School's coral reef watercolours



Art & Ceramics – Nature is our inspiration

The Art department is committed to celebrating and exploring the natural world through projects and themes that engage the children and teach them techniques and skills that are exciting and varied.

We draw with feathers and dip ink pens to understand the mark making to create the hair of a badger, and 6B pencils and charcoal to make tonal drawings of elephants. In Ceramics we use garlic presses to create the hair of highland cattle and small sculpted sheep. We encourage curiosity and exploration in all we do - from collaged seasonal pictures in E Form, to painted large landscapes on canvas with A and B Art scholars. Children learn to work out a variety of colour through colour mixing and how to make compositions to create form and colour to create atmosphere. They learn about barn owls before we draw them or make them into terracotta sculpted forms, or field mice before they are made in clay. Exploring and learning through making and doing is vital.

Across all year groups, from age 5-13, and in hobbies and scholarship groups, we work with subjects such as plants, birds, animals in their habitats, moving animals or capturing the textures and grace of an animal's form.

We learn in a school surrounded by trees, birds and woodland animals. We grow vegetables and flowers and look out onto specimen trees and undulating green spaces. All the 'outside' works its way into the art room and becomes part of our subject matter and what is important to us. Through our lessons, we talk and discuss the natural world, children tell stories and their experiences of it.

In our work we celebrate nature showing our love and our ongoing commitment to learning about it and from it, and how to preserve it.

By Mrs Tabberer



"The richness I achieve comes through Nature, the source of my inspiration."
Claude Monet



A Letter To Sir David Attenborough

Dear Sir David Attenborough,

I loved your speech at COP 26 about the carbon in the atmosphere rising. I especially loved what you said about how in our generation it is our responsibility to fix the environment and if we leave it as it is we as a species will not survive on this planet. This inspires me to make a difference in my lifetime.

You have encouraged me to love nature and try to help stop deforestation as a starting point. I hope one day I can go to a COP conference to do a speech about the change you have started and to explain how we are finishing it.

I think the priority is to stop the deforestation in the tropical rainforests, as we need the trees to absorb the carbon dioxide as well as offer a habitat for plants and animals. Then we must make sure we support companies I have learned about Ocean Cleanup who are trying to reduce plastic in the oceans and therefore not make the sea toxic so that the coral reefs which also hold on to carbon dioxide and are home to species can survive. We are destroying lots of things that absorb carbon, which makes the problem worse, as you explained in your speech.

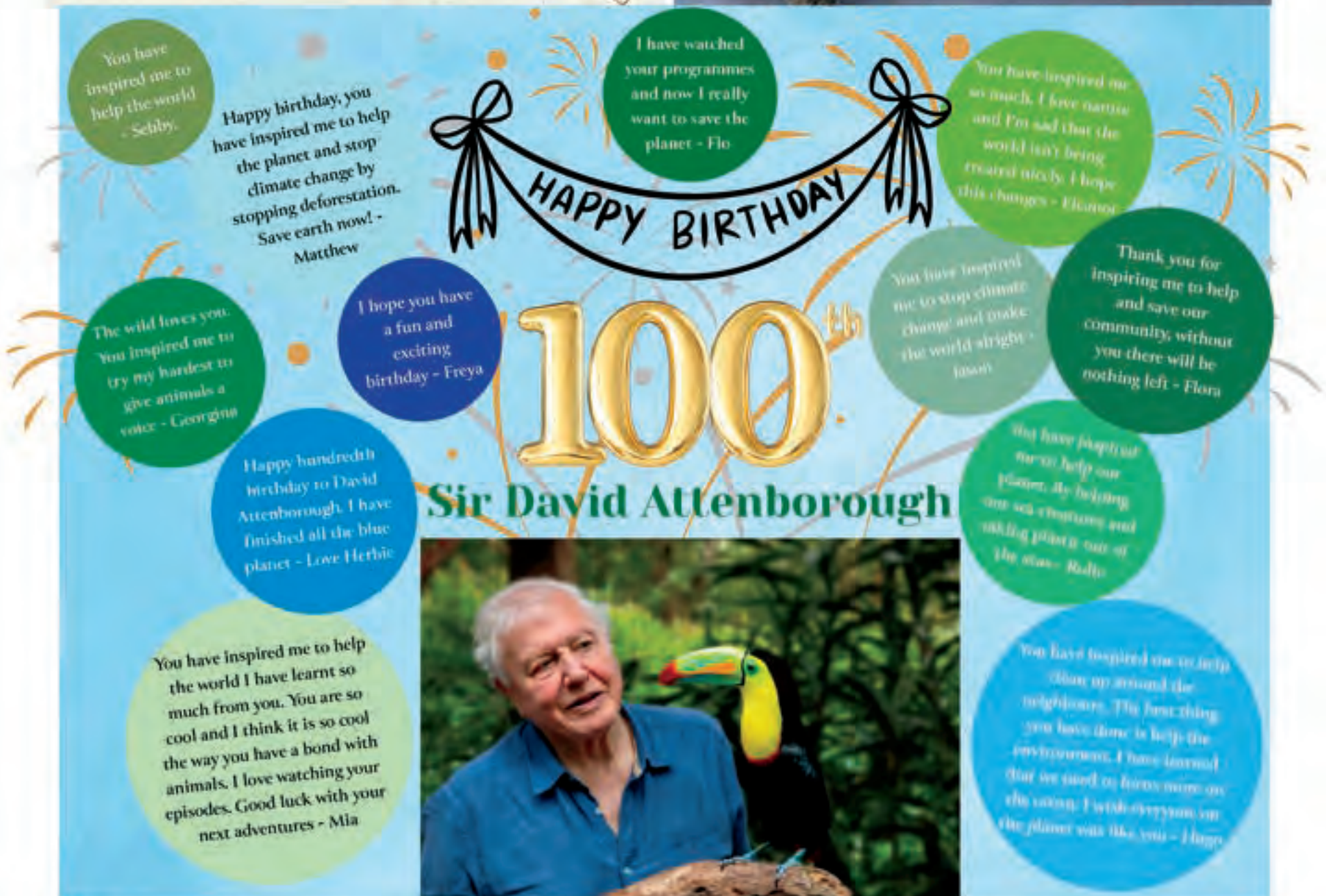
We have the quote in our classroom 'in our changing world nothing changes more than Geography' (Pearl S. Buck). I believe that we have to change our behaviour to save our planet and all of the life on it. Thank you for making all of your programmes and educating people on what we need to do.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver R.



Birthday messages for Sir David Attenborough





Teacher's Favourite Nature Fiction

Kathy Hunt, school nurse

Brambly Hedge- By Jill Barklem
Spring Story
Autumn Story
Winter Story

Mrs Handaji

Brendon Chase and the Little Grey Men
series by B.B. (I read both with Tachfin and
we love them!)

Moon by Britta Tenkentrup (for little ones)

Mrs Moussalli

Greta and the Giants - Zoe Tucker
When we went wild - Isabella Tree
The Giving Tree - Shel Silverstein



Mrs Moussalli's Hero

As a Geography teacher, I've spent my career trying to help young people see the wonder in the world around them, but no one has done that more powerfully, or more beautifully, than Sir David Attenborough. His documentaries have been a constant presence in my life: watched with my own children, shared within the boarding house, and woven into countless lessons. They've sparked curiosity, compassion, and awe in every setting.



What inspires me most is his extraordinary ability to bring the natural world into focus for everyone. He has a rare gift for making complex environmental issues accessible without ever losing their urgency. Through his calm storytelling, he's created a legacy of awareness, a global reminder that our planet is fragile, remarkable, and worth fighting for.

His unwavering love for animals, ecosystems, and the oceans has shaped not only my teaching but my own sense of responsibility. He models a kind of gentle authority: passionate, informed, and endlessly curious. It's no wonder he's become a familiar figure in my classroom, quite literally, as I was given a life-sized cardboard cutout of him when I left my last school which makes the odd appearance in my lessons, much to the delight of pupils. My husband even managed to find the perfect gift for someone who is notoriously difficult to buy for: a personalised signed photograph and letter from Attenborough himself. It remains one of my most treasured possessions.

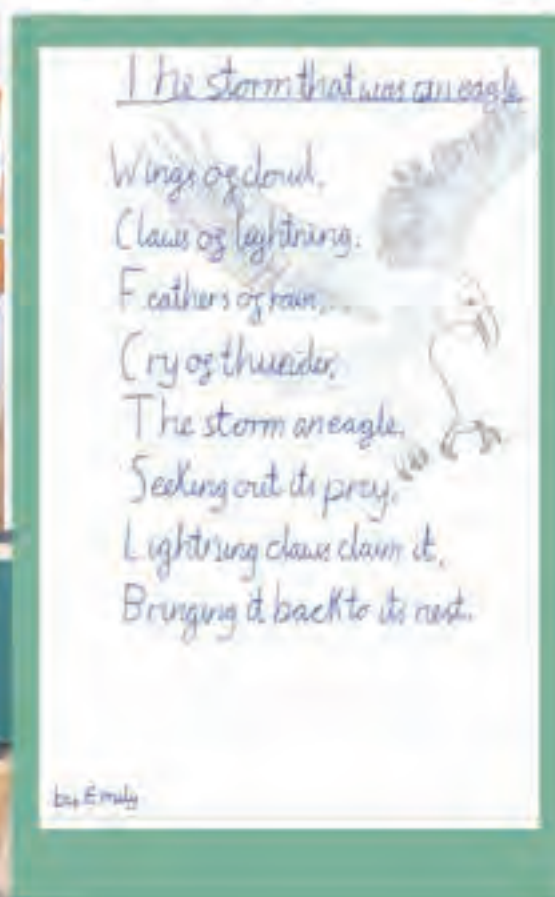
Sir David Attenborough has shown generations what it means to care deeply for the world we share. His voice, his vision, and his compassion continue to inspire me every day, and I hope, through my teaching, to pass a little of that inspiration on.



Messums Exhibition

By Mrs Mills & Mrs Tabberer

In 2024 Mrs Mills & Mrs Tabberer organised an exhibition at Messums West in Tisbury featuring over 100 canvas paintings by Port Regis children depicting the wildlife of The Nadder Valley. They also included two local primary schools - St John's Tisbury and Semley School in the project. What a prolific array of wildlife we have on our doorstep at Port Regis. Bravo to all the artists!





Anneke's Garden

The beautiful garden in Pre-Prep, created in memory of Port Regis mummy Anneke, is providing much joy to our youngest children.

The oak grotto is lined with the scallop shells that Anneke's friends and family made at her memorial service. Scallop shells were one of Anneke's favourite things, and shells underfoot provide a hint of the sea at playtime. The grotto provides a secluded haven for refreshing minds, quiet contemplation, and finding joy in nature – just as Al and Anneke hoped.

A wooden circle creates a space for snack time and storytelling, surrounded by plants that provide scent, colour and interesting leaves all through the seasons. Even the seeds from Anneke's favourite hollyhocks in the Ile de Re have been planted here.

AL Coco and Freddy have made a beautiful ceramic plaque in our ceramics department, soon to hang beside the grotto. Pressed with Coco's favourite wildflowers and marked with their own thumbprints, it has a handwritten inscription in the middle by AL. Together with Anneke's poem beneath the newly planted tulip tree donated by AL, this is a lasting and beautiful tribute – one we hope generations of children will enjoy. Thank you to everyone who donated to make it possible.



A Tree Slice of History By Lara

Trees are so old - some are hundreds of years old. Think how much of history they see compared to us? You can see the passing of time on the inside of a tree and count how many years it has been growing.

In Upward academic block there is an amazing slice of a Cedar of Lebanon tree. This once stood in the grounds of Port Regis, but sadly, came down in 2010. It stood for almost 200 years. I wonder what events in history it might have witnessed? Mr Capozzoli and I looked at the lines on the tree trunk and have marked some historical landmarks on the wood. We used the inspiring figures who our school houses are named after as a reference.

- 1) In 1865, not long after the tree was planted, Edith Cavell was born
- 2) In 1867 Marie Curie was born
- 3) 1881 Port Regis School was founded in London
- 4) 1914 Cavell helps wounded soldiers in World War 1
- 5) 1926 Sir David Attenborough was born
- 6) 1929 Martin Luther King Jr was born
- 7) 1947 Port Regis School moved to Motcombe
- 8) 1948 Marie Curie charity was established
- 9) 1963 Martin Luther King gives his 'I have a dream' speech
- 10) 1985 David Attenborough knighted by Queen Elizabeth



1867 - This tree was already standing when Marie Curie discovered radium and polonium. The first woman to win a Nobel Prize – and the only person to win two in different sciences – Curie's pioneering work in radiology transformed medicine. Her research made X-rays more effective and revealed that radium could destroy cancer cells, a breakthrough that still saves lives today. Her courage and determination were extraordinary.

1881 - The tree would have seen the original Georgian house on the school grounds, now remembered in the stable block that houses Pre-Prep. It witnessed The Mansion being built – and the founding of Port Regis.

1915 - Edith Cavell was executed during the First World War. Trained at Royal London Hospital, she secretly sheltered around 200 soldiers, helping them escape capture. Her bravery and compassion saved countless lives, regardless of nationality.

1926 - David Attenborough was born – a man who would change how we see our planet. Raised in Leicester, he spent his childhood exploring nature and dreaming of meeting incredible creatures all over the world in the wild. His dream became reality. From early broadcasts featuring zoo animals to landmark series such as Life on Earth and Blue Planet, Attenborough has brought the wonders of the natural world into our living rooms and inspired generations to protect it.

1929 - Martin Luther King Jr. was born. A Baptist minister and towering leader of the American civil rights movement, he championed nonviolent resistance against racial injustice. His 'I Have a Dream' speech became one of history's most powerful calls for equality. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and arrested more than 25 times for his activism, he was tragically assassinated at just 39 – but his legacy continues to shape the world.

1947 Port Regis moves to Motcombe in Dorset, the tree would have been really big by now.

1985 David Attenborough is knighted. In 2026 he celebrates his 100th Birthday!

Quiz Answers

1.-A 2.-B 3.-B 4.-C 5.-C 6.-B 7.-A 8.-B 9.-B 10.-B
11.-B 12.-C 13.-B 14.-C 15.-B 16.-B 17.-A 18.-C 19.-D

Port Regis became part of the United Nations climate COP By Simba

COP stands for Conference of the Parties. These meetings bring together representatives from countries around the world to discuss and address climate change. The main goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, limit global warming, and support countries affected by changing weather patterns.

In 2022, I participated in COP27 remotely. Although I was unable to attend in person, I followed the proceedings online. This allowed me to observe the discussions, learn about the decisions made, and stay informed about global efforts to protect the environment. I was able to access talks by world leaders online, and side events, as well as talks in the China Pavilion.

I took part in the Youth led leadership programme. In June 2024, I attended the SB60 meeting in Bonn, Germany. SB60 is one of the official preparatory sessions held before the main COP summit, it is basically the mid-year version of COP. These meetings focus on preparing draft texts, reviewing progress, and negotiating details for agreements that will be presented at the annual COP conference later in the year.

At the SB60 meeting in Bonn, I participated as an observer. Observers are permitted to attend sessions, follow the discussions, and sometimes make statements or submit information. However, they do not have the right to vote or take part in formal decision-making. My role was to listen carefully, take notes, and gain a clear understanding of the topics being discussed.



UN SPEECH PREPARATION MATERIALS



Port Regis's Green Vision - presented at the COP meeting in Bonn 2024

I was however able to deliver a speech about Port Regis's Green Vision at conference. I showed the school's Green Vision film. I talked about rewilding pockets of our grounds, our solar powered dreams, being waste warriors, our newspaper, our eco list and other parts of our school curriculum that connect us to nature – from art and science lessons to geography and STEAM.

The main purpose of these COP-related meetings is to encourage countries to work together on practical solutions. This includes moving toward cleaner forms of energy, protecting forests and oceans, and providing financial and technical support to nations most impacted by climate change.

My participation in these events has provided valuable insight into how the international community addresses one of the most important challenges of our time. Young people also have a role to play by learning about these issues, using resources responsibly, and supporting actions that help protect the planet. I gained valuable knowledge and I hope I can go back another year. There is much to engage in as a young person in saving our planet.



To what extent is artificial intelligence a sustainable technology? By Marina



Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to computer systems that perform tasks that usually require human intelligence, such as recognising images, understanding language, making decisions and predicting patterns. AI is used in everyday technologies including voice assistants, recommendation systems, medical scanners and climate models.

One way AI affects the environment is through its heavy use of raw materials, energy and water. Large data centres require huge amounts of water for cooling, sometimes taking it away from habitats and local communities. It is suggested that by 2027, global AI demand could require between 4.2 and 6.6 billion cubic metres of water. Some facilities exceed 1–4 million square feet, often built in lower-income areas where land and resources are cheaper. AI systems also rely on non-renewable energy and produce carbon emissions, contributing to climate change. As AI usage increases, so does its environmental impact, raising serious concerns about sustainability.

From a social perspective, AI is replacing many jobs, particularly affecting younger generations. Graduates are finding it harder to secure well-paid roles that cannot be automated. It is thought that 8 million jobs in the UK are at risk, and in the US between 200,000 and 300,000 jobs were reportedly lost to AI in 2025. Companies such as Amazon have announced plans to replace thousands of roles with AI by 2027. While AI improves efficiency and reduces costs for employers, it risks increasing unemployment and placing greater pressure on government support systems. It is not socially sustainable, and robs humanity of its own ability to do, to think and to create.

Economically, AI can be seen as sustainable because it increases productivity and generates significant revenue. Companies using AI make higher profits, contribute more in taxes and invest in innovation. By late 2025, some AI-related business revenues had reached around £23.9 billion. However, the long-term sustainability of this growth is uncertain if widespread job losses occur and if the cost of building and maintaining AI systems remains high. Although AI may benefit Britain in the long term, adjustment will take time as workers retrain and new roles emerge.

In my view, sustainability is the most important factor. Data centres consume vast natural resources that are not being sufficiently replenished. Although AI can help farmers reduce pesticide use and assist scientists in tracking climate change, it also produces large amounts of e-waste as models are constantly updated and older systems discarded, and it uses vast amounts of water! Sustainability depends on how AI is developed and powered. If systems used renewable energy and recyclable materials, their environmental impact would be reduced.

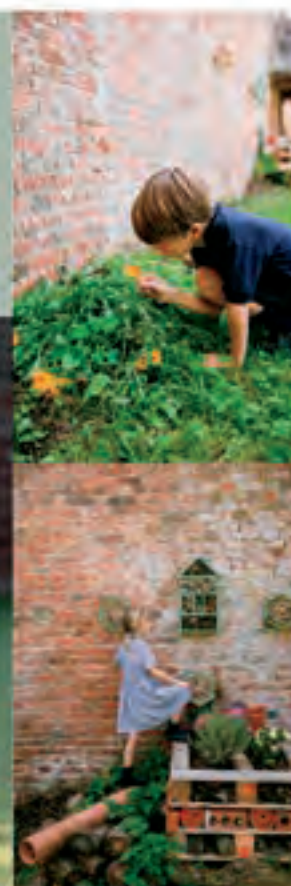
In conclusion, while AI currently benefits the economy, it is not fully sustainable. It displaces jobs, consumes excessive resources and produces e-waste. Data centres are often built in regions where water is already scarce, placing pressure on communities and ecosystems. AI has the potential to become more sustainable, but at present it poses significant environmental and social challenges. As this fast-moving technology develops, our generation will witness major changes shaped by its impact.

Pre-Prep

We love nature!



We love our school pets, guinea pigs and dogs. We are campaigning to get a rabbit!



We love playing in the Rose Garden, gardening and exploring the bug hotel.



We love learning about endangered animals.



We love exploring the school grounds and learning about the changing seasons.

Teacher's Favourite Nature Fiction

Mrs Hogan

The Fantastic Flying Journey - Gerald Durrell
(I still have the precious copy I won as a child!)

Oi! Get off our Train - John Burningham
The Very Hungry Caterpillar - Eric Carle



Forest School by Mr Stone

The children in Pre-Prep love their weekly 90-minute Forest School lesson. The experience allows the children to explore the outdoors and develop skills such as problem solving, teamwork, fine and gross motor skills, and build self-esteem. Activities such as den building, using tools, fire lighting and campfire cooking are hugely popular. These activities also allow the children to gain confidence, take risks, build resilience, and have a 'hands on' learning experience. Children also learn about nature, make bird feeders, bug hotels and go on nature spotting walks. Year 2 are currently learning about 'The Great Fire of London' and will head to Forest School to make fires using cardboard boxes which resemble buildings. They will see the risks of how quickly fire spreads – a great storytelling lesson, safety lesson and history lesson!



We love Anneke's Garden

"Nature and the outdoors are languages that can be learned. Once you identify a bench tree, tie a clove hitch or cook a simple meal over a fire that you've built yourself, you'll never forget it."
Bear Grylls



We love Forest School



We have created a tree sanctuary



We love discovering the wild animals at Port Regis – robins, deer, kingfishers, the baby otter, as well as the friendly goats and the teacher's dogs.



Teacher's Favourite Nature Fiction – Mrs Fuller

There's a Rang-Tan in my bedroom by James Sellick and Fran Preston-Gannon – a very moving book for younger children about the importance of saving rainforests.

The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson – you're never too small to make a difference.

Forest School Adventure: Outdoor Skills and Play for Children by Dan Westall and Naomi Walmsley – a wonderful book full of outdoor adventure ideas. Muddy knees and rosy cheeks was the name of the game when my boys were small.

PR's youngest beekeeper



Inspired to Write About Nature and Wildlife

C Term English have been captivated by Gill Lewis's atmospheric novel 'Sky Hawk'. The class followed the gripping wildlife adventure of an osprey and explored its powerful relationship with the land and humans. Inspired by Lewis's vivid storytelling, pupils wrote dramatic and evocative pieces capturing the osprey's epic migration back to the valleys and lochs of the Scottish Highlands.

The Journey

By Charlie

Irís's sunflower eyes scouted the endless blue. She exploded from the blackened rock into the starlit sky. She cruised higher, higher and higher as dark clouds loomed above her. A storm was coming.

Lightning shot over the land, tearing through the clouds and ripping through the sky. Iris flew on despite the hurricane of wind and hail. Thunder rolled across the world.

As she tumbled and turned, faces imprinted in her mind cast themselves into the heart of the storm — her chicks, her mate, the boy and the ghostly white girl. The faces conjured new hope, urging her on.

With fire raging inside her, she flew onwards. She flew home.

Poem for Earth - By Ellie

Earth, here is a seed for you,
Graceful and mature,
A tiny dream of green,
So you always have a future.

Earth, here is a tree,
An entanglement of roots.
The gossip of nature,
Spreading secrets that tell the story of life.
So Earth you will always have a voice.

Here, Earth, is a leaf,
From your tree,
A green living message.
Giving a new breath every step of the way.
So you will feel loved through the seasons.

Take these as my gifts:
A seed, a tree and a leaf.

For you, Earth always.

A Poem for Dad - By Eddie.

Dad, here is a stick.
Good for building and crafting.
A plain simple tool of imagination.
So you will always be able to create.

Dad, here is a sapling,
Full of life and joy and playfulness.
A youthful tree of innocence.
So your spirit will always stay young.

Here, Dad, is some wool.
It is soft but strong.
It stands for warmth and protection.
So you will always feel safe and loved.

Take these as my gifts:
A stick, a sapling and some wool.
For you Dad always.

B Form Poetry

If the Earth Could Talk, What Would It Say?

Some of B Form English have been exploring this question under the theme Our Planet. Through reading the dystopian novel 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgwick, alongside extracts and poems written from the perspectives of animals, humans and the Earth itself, students have examined how writers highlight the environmental challenges we face.

They have reflected on the consequences of inaction and the incredible beauty of our planet and its inhabitants. Inspired by the poem 'Ark' by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, the students have created their own poems, offering gifts of nature back to the Earth as messages of hope, protection and care. Their work reminds us of the power of words to celebrate, defend, and nurture our world.

Poem for Mud - By Sophia

Must, here is a worm for you,
It is the beginning —
New life, and you are its home,
So you will always have a friend.

Mud, here is a rain drop.
It gives you life.
Makes flowers grow.
So you will always have hope for the future.

Here an ant,
It is the messenger.
Through networks of tunnels it travels,
So you will always have a conversation.

Mud, we owe you a thank you.
You are the barrier between heaven and earth,
You take our tears when loved ones die,
Turning them into
Something beautiful —
Future trees and flowers,
The joy and hope of new life.

Take these as my gifts:
A worm, a raindrop and an ant,
For you, Mud, always.

Poem for Dolly - By Giannie

Dolly, here is a cherry-blossom tree,
Delicate and bright,
Dazzling in the spring sunlight,
So you will always be elegant,
Gracing passers-by with your peace.

Dolly, here is a feather,
So you can receive my letters
That lightly float in the wind,
Whispering truths,
So you will always have a friend.

Here, Dolly, is a seashell,
So you can hear the soulful sea,
Feel the intricate ridges,
And be transported back to tranquil memories
of the tides
When faced with the bumps of life.

Take these gifts —
a cherry blossom tree, a feather, a seashell —
and cherish them.

For you, Dolly, always.

Teacher's Favourite Nature Fiction
Mrs Lonergan

National Trust: I Am the Seed That Grew the Tree: A Nature Poem for Every Day of the Year – a poetry anthology and you can find a copy in Upward 13!
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett –
Every time I go into our own Port Regis rose garden I think of Mary Lennox opening the secret door at Misselthwaite Manor.

The Garden Gang by Jayne Fisher - This lovely series of Ladybird books has fruit and vegetable characters, and is even more impressive because the stories were written and illustrated by a nine year old girl.

MRS MOUSSALLI'S TOP NON-FICTION BOOKS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT.

Many of these books have been read by pupils in C or A Form.





Middle School art hobby
environmental posters

We Speak For The Trees

By Mrs Mills



For centuries, thinkers, writers, philosophers and faiths have urged humanity to live in harmony with nature. Indigenous communities have long modelled deep respect for the land they depend on. Even the Ancient Romans recognised environmental strain: Pliny the Elder warned, "We rob the rivers and the elements of nature, and the air itself... we turn into a medium for the destruction of life." In 1306, Edward I of England restricted coal burning in London because of smog. As civilisations advanced, so did environmental damage. In the 16th century, Pieter Bruegel painted polluted waterways, while Grotius argued in *The Free Sea* that pollution and war violate natural law.

In 1835, Ralph Waldo Emerson published a wide-reaching book: *Nature*, encouraging the appreciation of the natural world and limiting the human takeover of wilderness. At the same time conservation movements began to protect wildlife.



Earth Day march - USA 1970

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts"
Rachel Carson



The modern environmental movement was galvanised in 1962 by Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*, exposing the devastating impact of pesticides on biodiversity. Music and literature carried the message further. In 1970, Joni Mitchell released the song *Big Yellow Taxi*, which included the lyrics "They paved paradise to put up a parking lot." A year later, Dr Seuss published *The Lorax*, giving children a character who "speaks for the trees." On 22 April 1970, the first Earth Day saw 20 million Americans protest peacefully against environmental destruction.

Today, people across the world continue to stand up for nature — from David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg to Charles III and countless charities and environmental groups worldwide. We are thrilled to welcome guest speakers to our Environmental Summit in March — all champions for the natural world. And to all our PR pupils, we feel hopeful for the future if nature is in your hands.



"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living."
Sir David Attenborough



You are never too small to make a **Difference.**
— Greta Thunberg

STEAM News and contribution to our School's Green Vision

Each year, STEAM at Port Regis is built around a central theme. Over the past three years these have been *Biomimicry, Under the Microscope and Sustainability*.

Year One: Biomimicry

Our first theme, Biomimicry, encouraged pupils to look to nature for solutions to human challenges. Nature has refined efficient and sustainable systems over millions of years, and by studying these we can design innovations that reduce environmental impact and promote biodiversity.

Projects were integrated across subjects and structured around the four classical elements: fire, wind, earth and water. Pupils designed solar lanterns, explored natural tessellations found in honeycombs and shells, and studied fluid dynamics through water-inspired art and ceramics.

Challenge days extended learning further. Pupils designed wind turbines inspired by natural forms; created boats modelled on aquatic life, tackled the Beat the Flood engineering challenge, and competed in mathematical tessellation tasks. The year culminated in a vibrant Biomimicry exhibition in the Cunningham foyer, transforming the space into a celebration of creativity and innovation.

Year Two: Under the Microscope

Our second theme invited pupils to explore worlds invisible to the naked eye. In Science, pupils examined cells and microorganisms, using microscopic imagery to inspire work in Art and Design.

Mathematics introduced the nanoscale, helping pupils understand how manipulating materials at tiny scales can lead to major technological advances. During Beat the Flood, pupils explored nanotechnology and innovations such as the lotus leaf effect in waterproof design. The theme deepened scientific understanding while encouraging appreciation of precision and hidden complexity.

Year Three: Sustainability

This year's focus on Sustainability aligns with Environmental Day and reflects the urgent need for responsible design. Projects emphasise sustainable materials, efficient CAD/CAM design, waste reduction and consideration of product lifecycle.

Engineering challenges reinforce these principles. D Form engineered cantilever structures to provide shade and support solar generation. A Form entered the TeenTech Awards with environmentally focused projects, while younger pupils invented machines to protect the planet. Environmental Day activities include turbine design, and Beat the Flood now places greater emphasis on the causes and impacts of flooding.

Reflection

Across these three themes, STEAM at Port Regis has become a dynamic, collaborative programme connecting creativity with real-world problem solving. By embedding environmental thinking across subjects, we are nurturing innovative, environmentally aware young people who understand that science, design and engineering should contribute to a better future.



Teacher's Favourite Nature Fiction Mr Mitchell-Innes

The Jungle Book, Rudyard Kipling.

Watership Down, Richard Adams – one for our older readers, set in north Hampshire.

Redwall – excellent series of anthropomorphic stories, based on relationships and nature.



Environmental Wordsearch

By Edie & Dolly

R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	T	R	E	E	S
O	C	E	A	N	P	L	A	N	T	S	W
F	O	R	E	S	T	W	A	T	E	R	E
S	O	L	A	R	E	N	E	R	G	Y	L
T	R	E	E	S	E	A	R	T	H	C	L
W	A	T	E	R	C	L	I	M	A	T	E
A	N	I	M	A	L	S	R	I	V	E	R
E	N	E	R	G	Y	E	C	O	S	Y	S
P	L	A	N	T	S	N	A	T	U	R	E
P	O	L	L	U	T	I	O	N	R	E	D
R	E	U	S	E	R	E	N	E	W	A	B
H	A	B	I	T	A	T	G	L	O	B	A

Word List:

Recycle | Reuse | Reduce | Ocean | Forest | Solar |
Wind | Energy | Water | Trees | Plants | Animals |
Earth | Air | River | Nature | Habitat | Climate |
Ecosystem | Renewables | Pollution

Mrs Mills' Top Campfire Recipes

There is nothing quite like cooking on a campfire. The smell of the woodsmoke adds an extra layer of flavour to the food. Food often tastes better if you are sitting outside in nature, with your feet on fresh grass, the trees and birds around you and the wood fire crackling. Campfire cooking hobby is very popular in the summer term. I love sending the children into the woods to collect armfuls of wild garlic, or to the Rose Garden to hunt for herbs or vegetables we might add to the pot. The boarders enjoy gathering around the fire at weekends. The children learn lots of simple recipes and these are our favourites –

FRID EGGS ON TOAST



STIR FRY NOODLES

NAAN BREAD PIZZA WITH PESTO



BANANAS WRAPPED IN FOIL WITH CHOCOLATE



STEAK BAGUETTE WITH WILD GARLIC BUTTER



PITTA BREAD POCKETS WITH VEGETABLES & HALLOUMI



STRAWBERRIES DIPPED IN MILK CHOCOLATE



MINT TEA & S'MORES



AMERICAN PANCAKES



1. What do we call animals and plants that live in the same area and depend on each other?

- a) Ecosystem
- b) Weather
- c) Pollution

2. Which gas do plants take in to make food?

- a) Oxygen
- b) Carbon Dioxide
- c) Nitrogen

3. What is the main source of energy for life on Earth?

- a) Wind
- b) The sun
- c) Water

4. Which of these is a renewable resource?

- a) Coal
- b) Oil
- c) Wind

5. What do bees help plants do?

- a) Grow roots
- b) Make soil
- c) Pollinate

Nature Quiz by Dolly & Edie

6. What is deforestation?

- a) Planting trees
- b) Cutting down trees
- c) Watering forests

7. Which animal is endangered?

- a) Panda
- b) Chicken
- c) Dog

8. What is climate change mostly caused by?

- a) Too many clouds
- b) Human activities
- c) Moon phases

9. Which of these is good for the environment?

- a) Leaving lights on all day
- b) Using reusable bags
- c) Wasting water

10. What do we call water falling from clouds?

- a) Pollution
- b) Precipitation
- c) Evaporation



11. Which place has the most species?

- a) Desert
- b) Rainforest
- c) Arctic

12. What should you do with your litter?

- a) Leave it on the ground
- b) Hide it
- c) Put it in a bin

13. Which of these animals lives in the ocean?

- a) Elephant
- b) Dolphin
- c) Tiger

14. What is pollution essential for?

- a) Solar energy
- b) Harmful substances in the environment
- c) Growing plants

15. Why are trees important?

- a) They make noise
- b) They produce oxygen
- c) They create paper

16. Which energy source comes from moving water?

- a) Solar energy
- b) Hydropower
- c) Coal

17. What happens when ice at the poles melts?

- a) Sea levels rise
- b) Earth stops spinning
- c) More forests grow

18. Which of these helps save water?

- a) Long showers
- b) Leaving taps on
- c) Turning off taps tightly

19. What can we do to help the Earth?

- a) Pick up litter
- b) Plant trees and recycle
- c) Protect nature
- d) All of the above!

Answers on page 24



"This is what we hoped education would be"

- Port Regis Parent

Come and discover Port Regis for yourself

Contact Stephanie at admissions@portregis.com
or call 01747 857914 to organise a private tour

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