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From the Direct Communications Unit

7 January 2022

The Pupils
Year 4
Francis Holland School
39 Graham Terrace
London
SW1W 8JF

Dear Children

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your correspondence in which you raise the important matter of climate change.

It is really encouraging to see young people like yourself thinking hard about the future of our planet, the impact of climate change and the actions the UK Government is taking to tackle it.

I agree with you that climate change is an important issue. That is why we are determined to tackle it and leave our natural environment in a better condition than we found it. I am pleased to tell you that between 1990 and 2017 we have reduced our emissions by 44 per cent.

However, it is clear we need to go further. In November, the UK hosted the crucial COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow. It was at this Summit where the historic Glasgow Climate Pact was agreed by almost 200 countries. This Pact is important, as it now means we have net zero commitments for over 90 per cent of the world's economy. The Pact will also speed up the pace of climate action this decade, with all countries agreeing to return at COP27 next year with further improved emission targets.

At home, our net zero target means that from 2050, the UK will stop contributing to climate change. Our recently published Net Zero Strategy will drive forward our ambition to reach net zero.

We must continue to embrace the opportunities offered by technology if we are to accelerate the transition to a greener future. Innovations in energy storage technologies; a smart, flexible, and efficient electricity system; zero-emission vehicles and eco-friendly buildings are some of the technologies on our side.

The Government cannot beat climate change on its own, it needs support and action from all parts of society. Now our COP26 Presidency year has officially begun, we will continue to demonstrate strong UK leadership to make sure promises are kept and delivered to the highest standards, working with Governments, businesses, and young people like yourself, to further the efforts needed to advance rapid progress.

Many people from all over the UK are already doing their bit on climate change, from the engineers working on the offshore wind farms now powering our homes and businesses, to local initiatives encouraging children and parents to walk to school. We want to celebrate them and inspire more to join them.

You might be interested in reading through this guide on some steps that we can all take. I would encourage you to share it with your friends and family too:
<https://together-for-our-planet.ukcop26.org/>

Thank you, once again, for writing to the Prime Minister on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Danu', written in a cursive style.

Correspondence Officer
