

RT. HON. ROBERT GOODWILL M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Ms Vickie Bordoli (Base 2 Class Teacher)
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Our Ref: RG4088

15 October 2020

Dear Milly, Eva, Alex, Joshua, Lottie, Lewis, May and Martha,

Thank you very much indeed for taking the time to write to me about some of the very serious issues effecting all of us and the environment in which we live.

I think it is great that students at Goathland Primary School are becoming aware of these issues and indeed no doubt you have seen some of the programmes from Sir David Attenborough which highlight how our environment, both on land and at sea, is being effected by the way we live our lives.

You draw my attention to a number of issues, including that of pollution and CO2. Not only do cars, factories and lorries etc produce visible smoke which is often referred to as particulate matter or PM, also not visible is the carbon dioxide that they produce. As carbon dioxide levels rise in the atmosphere then this increases the greenhouse effect which means that the earth's atmosphere acts like the glass in a greenhouse and makes the earth warmer. This is affecting the way we can grow food around the world and also melting the polar icecaps, which means that sea levels are rising and flooding will be more prevalent in coastal areas and indeed some islands like the Maldives may well be covered in water completely.

You also raise the issue of litter which is something I personal get very cross about. It does seem that during lockdown we have had some people who are not usually visitors to the countryside coming and they do not seem to respect our local environment in the same way that regular ramblers or local people do. Certainly when I go out for walks I try and pick up litter when I can but I was recently disgusted when we were having a long walk near the Ribbleshead Viaduct in the Yorkshie Dales to see that some people had had a picnic and left absolutely everything behind. This was around about 3 miles from the nearest road so it would be very hard for the Council to put bins there or to collect them. I know I have had letters from people in Goathland complaining about people leaving litter (and worse things)! behind and also people behaving very irresponsibly at Thomason Foss.

Cont

Member of Parliament for Scarborough and Whitby

Please reply to the address indicated beneath:

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We also need to do what we can to reduce the amount of plastic that goes into the environment. Very small amounts of plastic, known as micro-plastics, become incorporated into small marine organisms which in turn are eaten by other organisms and can cause some very severe problems. I am absolutely committed to reducing the amount of plastic that we use and looking at alternatives, such as paper or packaging, or indeed dispensing with packaging altogether and putting our vegetables etc straight into the basket.

Finally, we need to have more re-usable items to prevent things being thrown away which is why I am so pleased that now very good washable face coverings are available. Indeed I was given one as a present with a pattern of Big Ben on it, which I am very pleased to wear both in London and in the Scarborough and Whitby constituency.

Thank you very much indeed for raising these issues, which are very important issues, and ones which Politicians such as myself and Boris Johnson are determined to address.

Best wishes and I hope that you are all enjoying being back at school and being taught by Vickie Bordoli.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP
Scarborough & Whitby