

TGPA Yew Tree  
Wherretts Well Lane  
Solihull  
B91 2SD  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Dear Mrs Turner,

Your school is considered as one of the best schools in the country. It is known for its high-quality lessons and thriving children, excellent socially and academically. More importantly, the outstanding PE lessons have impeccable equipment, straight-forwards instructions, an amazing leader (you) and last but definitely not least, the children have fun, laughing and smiling throughout the lesson. It is no wonder all the children look forwards to your lessons. In spite of this, all through the world, children are hand-stitching footballs for people to buy in mandatory child labour. The equipment you are buying might have been produced by small, innocent children, even as young as 5 years old.

Your children are playing while others are stitching. 1 in 10 are working in child labour, 11 hours a day and 70% are from Pakistan. In 1997, an agreement was signed to stop child labour in Pakistan. This meant adult workers could no longer work at home to prove they are not just making their children do the work. Although this is true, child labour is still happening in places where it is hard to control.

Please make sure that the equipment you are purchasing is not made by child labour and that you are buying Fairtrade products. Fairtrade symbols confirm that the product that they are labelling has been made labour-free and that the workers are getting paid fairly.

Our class has been reading a book called 'Kick' by Mitch Jhonson. The main character, Budi, is a football-loving boy that gets forced into child labour. The closest thing he gets to footballs is stitching kits. He gets no education. I am sure if he had the chance to go to your school, he daren't say no. though this is fiction, his story is reality to millions of children around the globe. So many children struggle and put in effort, do you really want to sit and watch while weary innocent hands stitch these footballs one by one?

152 million children across the globe are working 11 hours a day and only get paid £1.25 a day. 32 panels – 18 metres of yarn – 650 stitches – all are mashed together just to make ONE FOOTBALL. 40 million hand made footballs a year, and 60 million for a world cup year. Children as young as 5 are still working in 2024.

Imagine, millions of tiny hands, stitching and weaving up footballs with sore, throbbing, *aching* skin. Imagine the children in your class, fiddling with needles all day. Imagine poor children getting unbearably low incomes. Imagine how devastating it is that this is true for so many children.

Poor, innocent children can only *dream* of the high-quality education. Will you buy child labour items even when exposed to the tough reality of hopeless, helpless young children making them in brutally forced child labour? It is like being in a detention for eternity, never getting a high marking, always trapped in the cycle of poverty.

Reasons why you should buy from and support Fairtrade are: they give their workers fair wages, children do NOT get employed, and children are able to have fun and live a normal life. To be honest, fairtrade products will cost more but at least they aren't made by cruel, forced labour.

Our goals are to make sure child labour stops happening and get an education for all children. How we can do this is to stop buying from non-fairtrade suppliers to give them less sales, meaning eventually they will see that they are not getting any profit.

Now is the time and today is the day. We demand that you help our campaign and support non-child labour products. We need you to defend the poor, hopeless children by purchasing Fairtrade products. Imagine our world, a world where everyone can smile. Everyone can have a wonderful childhood and future. If you support fairtrade products, we will be one step closer to making this a reality. Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely,

Aysel