

TGPA Yew Tree
Wherrets Well Lane
Solihull
B91 2SD

Thursday 5th February

Dear Mrs Maclean,

Tudor Grange Academies are well-known for producing outstanding pupils, with a very high standard of education. You are seen as a highly important figure in our trust and are praised as being a great leader, helping children to thrive socially and academically. But unbeknown to many, whilst we are getting treated to the finest PE lessons, children around the world are working to make the equipment that we will use.

When your children are doing PE, the balls that we use have probably been made by young people, earning a meagre wage. Did you know 70% of hand – stitched footballs are made in Pakistan, where child labour is harder to stop? We need to know where our equipment is made, which means we could buy Fairtrade items, so at least we know the workers are being paid fairly.

Lately, our class has been reading 'KICK' an award – winning, inspirational book by Mitch Johnson. The story is about a young boy called Budi, who lives in the poverty – stricken area of Jakarta in Indonesia. He dreams of playing for his favourite team, Real Madrid alongside his biggest hero, Kieran Wakefield at the Bernabau in front of 80'000 fans. But for now, he is stuck in his boot factory, sweating over every stitch he sews, working behind the scenes. Whilst Budi is a fictional character, there are millions of children just like him, who could only ever dream of going to school, especially one of yours.

Sadly, not everyone can afford it. Some children have to work 11-hour days just to survive, some as young as 5! 1-in-10 children are in forced labour, that's 152 million little sets of hands. To make matters worse, thousands of families are living on only \$1.25 a day!

How would you feel if it was you suffering, would you be where you are now? These poor innocent children are cheated – cheated of their happiness, cheated of their freedom, cheated of a childhood. Should we sit back whilst this horrible practice continues?

This is where fairtrade comes in, we need to take responsibility and make sure that we know that the workers who make our equipment for PE are not working in precarious conditions. Fairtrade has three main goals: 1. Workers earn a decent amount of money, 2. Children are not working and are going to school (no child labour) and 3. All children are getting a high – quality education. We need to help these goals be reached.

We urge you to make sure we are using Fairtrade items. For example, we can buy Bala Sport footballs for PE. Bala Sports are a company who are based in Scotland, and they have been making footballs, rugby balls and futsals since 2014 (10 years). They make sure their balls are made by adults who are earning a proper salary. However, there are only 6 Bala Sport factories in the whole world, which are all in Salakot, Pakistan. We look forward to hearing your response and thank you for your time.

Yours Sincerely,

Jackson

