

St. Michael's Church School

SECTION 4:Community and Living Well Together

Introduction

'For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them' Matthew 18:20

At St Michael's Church School, we are focusing our collective worship on a project about 'God's plan for your wellbeing'. The project will help our children to learn about mental, physical, emotional, relational, financial, vocational and spiritual wellbeing through the Bible stories of Elijah. Through the stories about Elijah, we hope to cover our school values of responsibility, faith and respect.

During our Global Neighbours Enrichment Day, our Year 5 children were looking at 'Influential Leaders' focusing on the Royal Family. The children discovered that Prince William, Prince Harry and Kate Middleton are massive advocates for mental health in children. In response to this, the children wrote scripts about the importance of children having healthy bodies and minds. Below is a video created by our wonderful children. We took small sections of their scripts to make one script to share with other children about mental wellbeing, speaking out loud, talking to a trusted adult and how important mental health is for children. Remember, "talk is a short word but it has a big meaning and big impact". "It is OK to not feel OK, you need to know you are not alone and there is always an adult to turn to."

At St Michael's, we teach and support the children how to practice forgiveness and reconciliation. This is supported through the teachings and life of Jesus during collective worship. Our school behaviour policies focus on the positive behaviours and developing a positive mind set. Our reflection time allows children to think about any negative choices, to reflect, forgive and reconcile. Our pupils know and feel they always have a second chance and tomorrow is a new day. Our children are happy children and demonstrate our school values each and every day.



As part of developing our school community, we ask our children to take on responsibilities and leadership roles. They include Reception buddies when they start school, IT support team, School council representatives, Head boy and girl. Recently, we created a worship leader team with an outstanding 38 children in our year 5 classes opting to help lead and be role models during our collective worship. We are so proud of these incredible children wanting to become 'models of faith' as Jesus taught us in Luke's gospel.

At St Michael's, the staff feel hugely responsible for the care and development of all our pupils. They work together well to ensure there is a team approach to supporting children. As a staff we have huge aspirations for them and seek many different opportunities to extend the variety of activities, skills and WOW moments we can offer them.

Below is a video of our wonderful Year 3 pupils who have learnt how to sign in BSL to the song 'A Thousand Years'. This was the result of a Collective Worship showing the video of children with Downes Syndrome signing along to the song. The children were mesmerised and started to join in. Miss Coulson sought support from our fabulous Family Support Worker Mrs Simons Clarke who knows how to use BSL to show the children how the correct signs for the song. Here is the result.

The children have continued to learn BSL through song. The chosen song is 'Only One Call Away' by Charlie Puth. We decided that God is only one call away through prayer and he is better than Super Man too!



Books

At St Michael's Church School, we host a bi-yearly book fair and invite the children to choose and buy a book to read for pleasure.

As a school we focus on 'Reading for Pleasure' so we are so happy that our children take so much enjoyment from reading and buying books which in turn raises money for the school to enhance the amount of books in our library.

Our teachers and adults in school love to share their favourite books and this in turn encourages our children to find them at book fairs for home reading.

Well done everyone for raising so much money over the years and helping us to develop the love of reading.



Dinner Hall Helpers

'Be kind and compassionate to one another' Ephesians 4:32

At St Michael's Church School, we encourage our children to help one another in all areas of life, through their academic work and life skills. We have wonderful team of Dinner Hall Helpers to support the younger children with their lunchtimes. Within this important role, the children would help to carry trays for the youngest children, show and support children in how to use a knife and fork successfully, clearing and cleaning tables, sweeping the floors and help open packets in lunch boxes. These children massively make a difference in the hall at lunchtime. Here is a picture of our wonderful Year 6 Lunchtime Helpers Team.



Food Banks

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me'. Matthew 25:35

At St Michael's Church School, we pride ourselves on our community support and remembering the phrase 'those who have, share with those who have not'.

For many years, at Harvest we shared our festival donations with the Peterborough Food Bank. Volunteers from the Food Bank came into school and spoke to the children about the difference our donations can make to those in the community.



For the last two years, at Harvest and other key times in the year such as Easter, we have shared our festival donations with Mary's Child. This is a charity linked to our church, St Michael's and our Reverends share the food, toiletries and monetary donations with people more local to our school, including Cardea, Stanground, Farcet and Fletton, extending out into Peterborough if needed too. The children in our school are always very generous and they help to organise the food ready for collection. Our year 6 children this year (2021) said they were amazed by the amount of food we had collected but were shocked to learn that 3 trollies of food would probably last about 3 weeks of food parcels for those who needed it. At Easter, we donated Easter Eggs for Reverend Andrew and Carol to share with the community, especially for the children who may not receive one otherwise.



'Live in harmony with one another' Romans 12:16

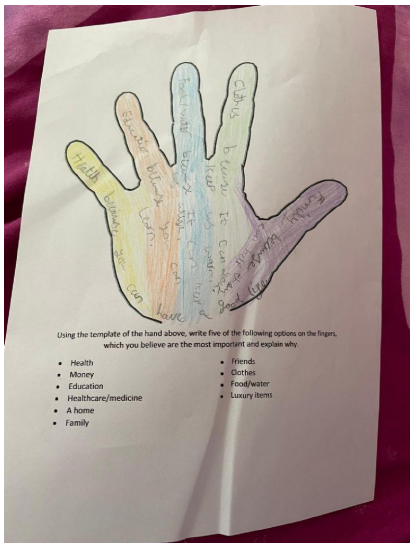
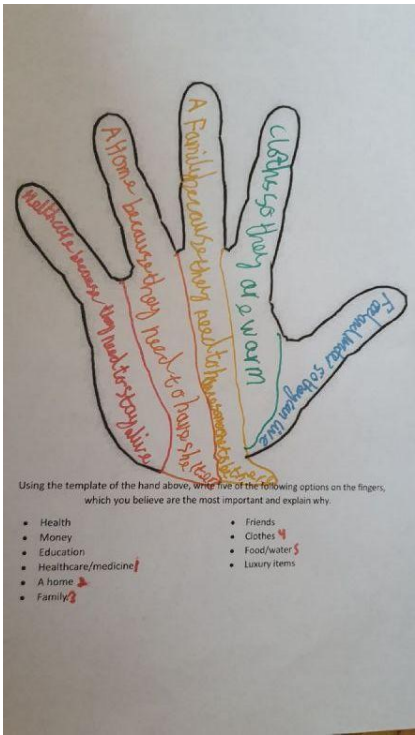
At St Michael's Church School, we aim to teach our children about the wider world and about the injustices and inequalities children face. This project aims to look at global issues and equip our children to become courageous advocates for change.

We launched the project through Collective Worship, looking at the following themes each week: Water, Food, Climate Change, Refugees, Peace Makers, Weather, Global Families, Influential Leaders, Health and Medicine, Education, Wonderful World, Natural Resources and Life as a Child. We made connections between what we have and what others do not have, thinking about how this might affect the way people live and view things. We held an Enrichment Day when each year group chose one theme to focus on.

Below is some examples of the work from our Year 4 children. The theme was 'Refugees' and the children had to think about 5 things they value the most in their life and why.

The children also asked to make a video of the 10 things they would take with them if they had to leave home and not possibly ever return. Here Annalise explains her choices, and we think she has made some great choices.

Our Year 5 children focused on Influential Leaders. They learnt about our Young Royal Family, primarily HRH Prince William, Prince Harry and the Duchess of Cambridge Catherine's contribution to the UK and the world. The children found out these members of the Royal family play a massive part in developing understanding of Mental Wellbeing and Living Well. Our wonderfully, talented Year 5 pupils created this video all about Mental Health and what to do when they are struggling. This is a video starring our children and using their words.



MacMillian

We hold a yearly MacMillan Coffee Morning as this charity sits very closely to members of staff and children alike. Every year staff and friends demonstrate their baking skills and we ask for donations for samples of the delicious cakes and bakes.



Mary's Child

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Mary's child also supports our families at time of struggle such as Christmas and provided some of our families with a food package or small gift for the children.



Nurture Room

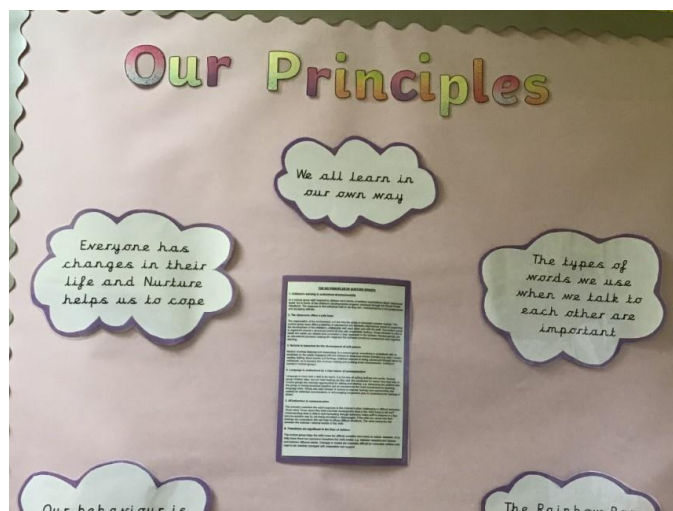
The Nurture provision known as the Rainbow Room is designed to be a bridge between home and school, a place where children can feel safe and secure and therefore develop their individual needs further.

The nurturing approach offers a range of opportunities for children to engage with missing early nurturing experiences, giving them the social and emotional skills to do well at school and with peers, develop their resilience and their capacity to deal more confidently with life.

The Rainbow Room is set up in such a way that it resembles a 'home'. There is a living-room area with a sofa and cushions; a dining area and kitchen for snack and a working area for pupils to carry out their activities. There are also lots of resources and areas to encourage learning through play.

Children follow a structure and routine that is clear to both staff and children which includes group listening and speaking, work tasks, individual and shared play and social skills. Food is shared at 'breakfast' or 'snack time' with much opportunity for social learning, helping children to attend to the needs of others, with time to listen and be listened to.

The relationship between the two nurture trained staff is always nurturing and supportive, providing a positive role model for children. The group runs on consistency, positive reinforcement and praise. As the children learn academically and socially, they develop confidence, become responsive to others, learn self-respect and take pride in their relationships and in achieving their full potential.



Children attend nurture groups but remain an active part of their main class group, spend appropriate times within the nurture group according to their need and typically return full time to their own class within two to four terms.

Platinum Jubilee

St Michael's Church School had a fabulous afternoon celebrating Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee by hosting a whole school 'Afternoon Tea Party'. Everyone was invited to join in the celebrations with jam sandwiches, crisps, cake and a drink. The outside was decorated and we were all invited to come to school dressed in red, white and blue. We will be holding further festivities at our '10 Year Anniversary' celebration in July. Big congratulations to Her Majesty and thank you for your dedicated and loyal service.



Polish Project

As a school, we were invited to participate in the 'School Project on Poland' supported by the Polish Embassy. The Project exists so that school age children in the UK can get to know more about Poland, Polish people in the UK and their shared stories of living and learning in the UK. The project resources were initially devised for use in secondary schools but we adapted them for use in a primary context. The Project made great SMSC links for the pupils participating and a fantastic way to promote 'British Values' as it developed greater social cohesion.

Below are the links to the Celebration Event in the Polish Embassy, we took two children as representatives for our school and the evidence we provided for the Project including a video about the impact on our children.

[Celebration – Schools Project on Poland \(projectpolish.com\)](http://projectpolish.com)

[St. Michael's Church School, Peterborough – Schools Project on Poland \(projectpolish.com\)](http://projectpolish.com)

Role and Responsibilities

Philippians 3:17

'Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do'.

At St Michael's Church School, we value our children and believe it is important to prepare them for their future. This means offering them opportunities to have important roles and responsibilities throughout their time with us.

Our Year 6 have several very important roles in our school. We have a Head Boy, Liam and Girl, Anisha who hold the most prestigious roles. They will lead and support our Future Leaders Committee. Liam and Anisha are a role models to all of the children in school, showing other children how living by the school values and rules help you to become great people.

Our Deputy Head Boy, Joshua and Head Girl, Freya also have an important role leading our Eco Council. They help to ensure that our school is making better choices in terms of making sure our world has a future. They will be leading the members of the council, nominated by their classes to ensure our school is a happy, environmentally friendly place to be.

The Year 6 children also have a variety of other roles including librarians, tech team, playtime leaders and lunchtime helpers.

The Year 2 and 5 children are asked if they would like to be Collective Worship Leaders. These children play an integral part of our time together thinking about God. They help to establish a welcoming environment, remind us of why we are together, model signs for choral worship and lead our prayer time.

Each class are invited to nominate a Future Leader, Eco School Councillor and Maths Ambassador. The children have to tell their class why they should be voted for and how they can make a difference to the school. A vote system is put into place and then the child who wins is invited to then take on this important role. You will be able to spot our children leaders in school because they will be wearing a badge with their role title on.



Science Week

And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:26-28

At St Michael's Church School, we know it is massively important to preserve and protect God's world. We know it important to make a difference in our school, in order to make a difference in the world. We know that small changes can make a big difference for our community and so we can continue living well together.

In order to do this, we hold special themed weeks to focus on different aspects of God's wonderful world. This includes a 'Science Week' and we have looked in more detail at different themes including Global Warming, Plastic Pollution, Renewable Energy and Ice Pole collapses.

Our children have protested, written debates and shared ideas about how we can improve the school community and thereby preserve and protect the world.

Here is a link to our Science Week page for evidence of our children sharing their voice.

[St. Michael's Church School - Science Week](#)

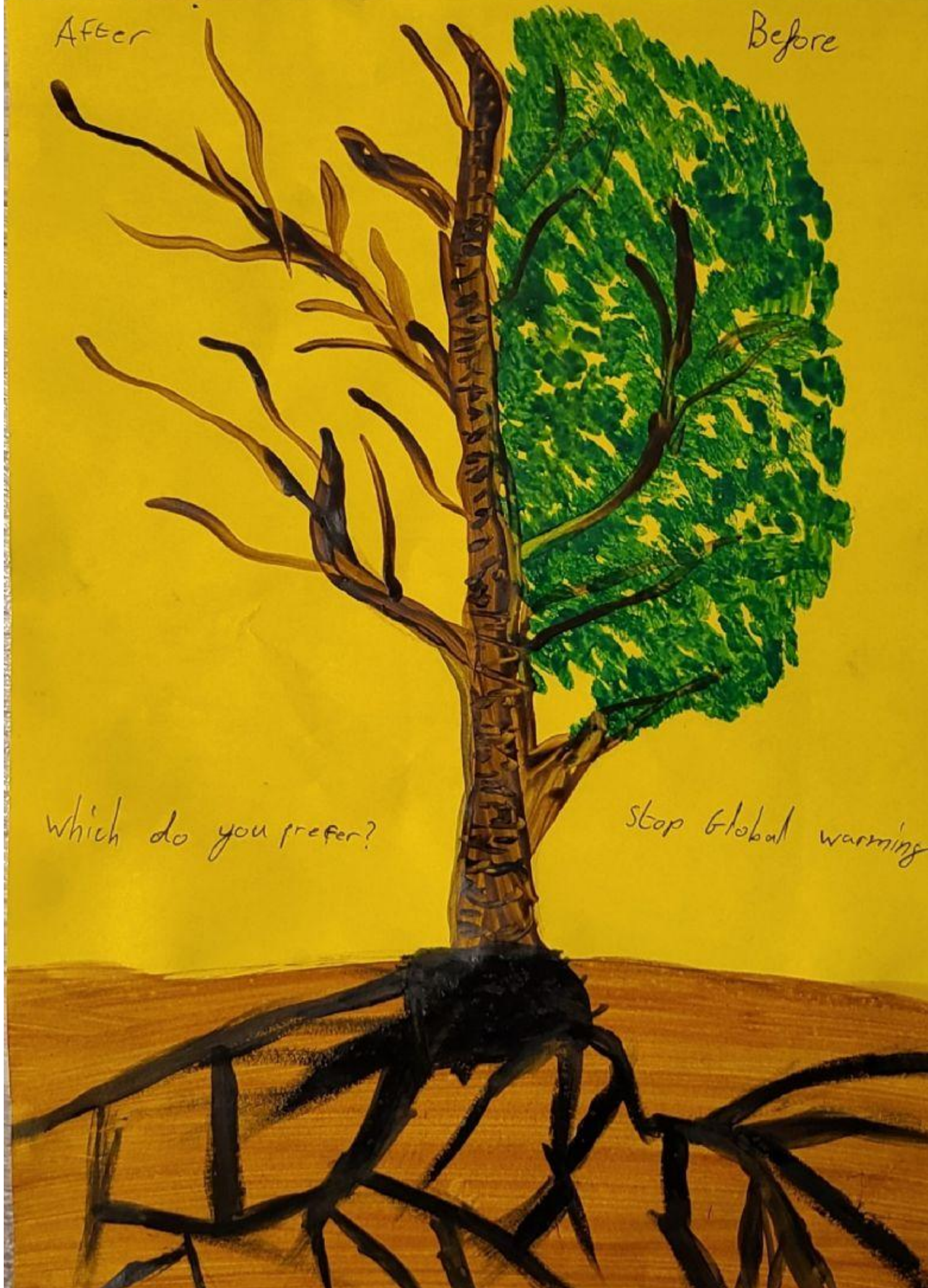
Here are some examples of our children's Global Warming posters. These were made a warning poster to make a change now as later may be too late.

Below you will also see our children on specially adapted bikes that can record how much renewable energy can be made from riding a bike. The children were challenged to see if they could make enough energy to provide heat, light and electricity for 24 hours. It proved to be a very difficult and unsustainable task, but the children learnt about how important it is to keep switching off lights, closing doors, turning off computers and laptops and ensuring the classroom thermostat is not set too high, so we do not waste too much energy in school through heat and electricity.



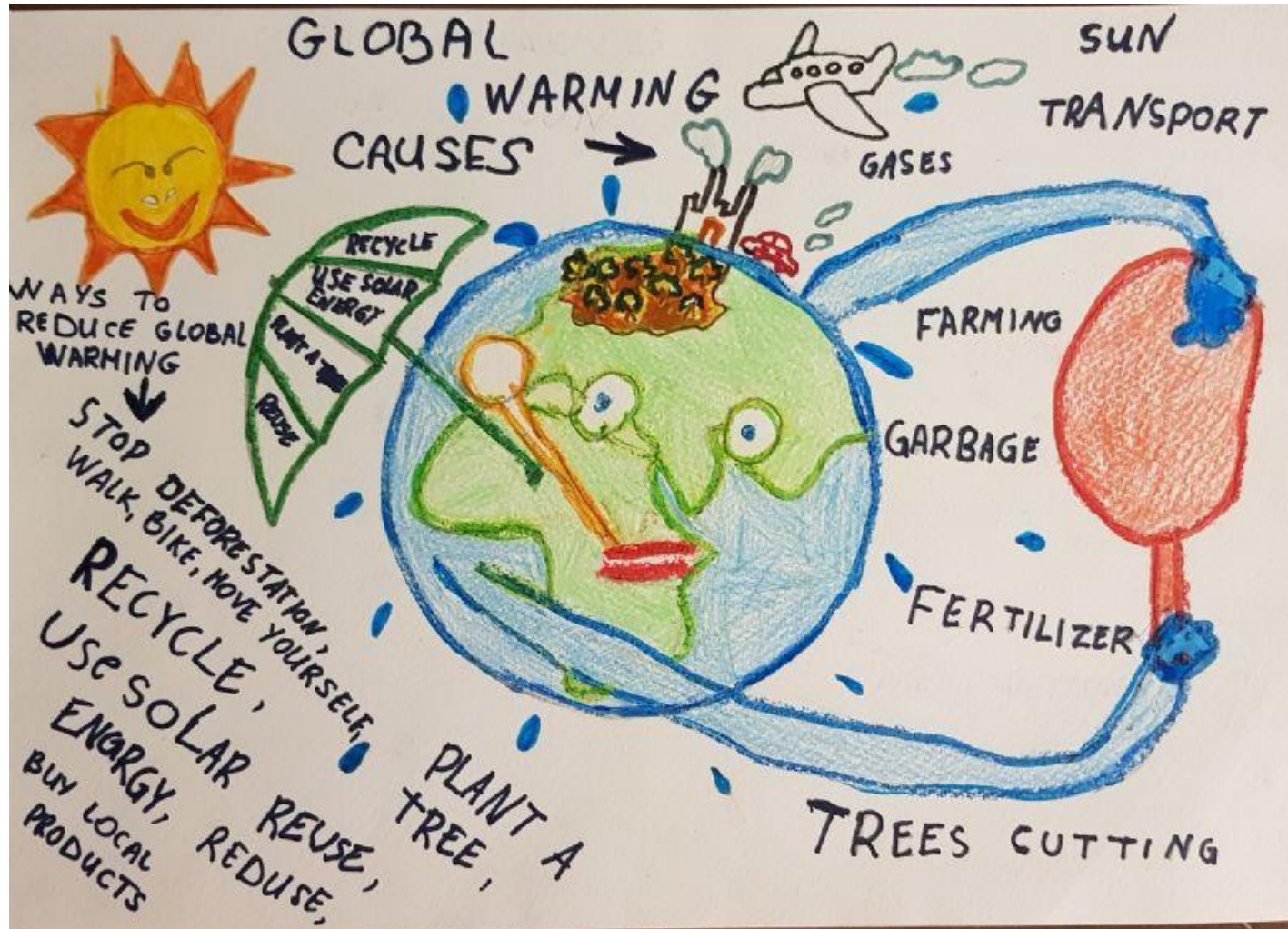
After

Before



which do you prefer?

Stop Global warming






by Evan Green
Puffin's Class

GLOBAL WARMING

Greenhouses trap too much heat in the Earth's atmosphere.

EXTREME weather

 Melting glaciers



Bush fires




Ice melting means that polar bears can't hunt seals for food.



No food for polar bears to eat.

YOU CAN HELP!

TURN off lights.  switch

Travel by bike or walk.



Use Renewable energy.

