

Europe Office

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Geneva, 4 May 2017

Dear School Boards,
Dear Principals,
Dear Teachers,

We are writing to you from the United Nations Environment Programme to propose a joint action to celebrate World Environment Day with your pupils on 5 June.

As you may know, World Environment Day is the United Nations' biggest awareness-raising event of the year for our planet and its resources. The theme of the 2017 edition is 'connecting people with nature' and we see this as a great opportunity for you to remind your pupils about nature's beauty and the amazing benefits it brings to our health and minds.

We therefore encourage all teachers to give lessons amidst nature on 5 June (or one day during that week), so that all kids are 'connected with nature' while at school! Do you think you could take your group of pupils to the nearest park, garden or forest and give your maths, science, language or other lesson surrounded by beautiful nature?

We believe that – if children across the world can be outside and simply feel nature on one day in a year, together we can ensure that this major awareness-raising initiative is both fun and valuable. We know that - if touched by nature early on in their lives - children can be spurred to protect our world and help ensure its sustainability as they grow up.

"There isn't a child that doesn't get filled by wonder by nature, even from a very early age," the naturalist and documentary-maker David Attenborough has told us in the run-up to the Day. "We are a part of nature," he reminds us.

We are therefore proposing to undertake outdoors lessons in as many schools as possible. We would be very happy if you join us and let us know so we can add your school to the list of participants and give you visibility on our website.

On this page, you will find more information about World Environment Day and this year's theme. You will also see what others are organising to celebrate the day:

<http://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>

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Also, we will shortly have education packs that we will share with schools and that can be used for a lesson on nature.

Do not hesitate to contact our focal points for more information and to confirm your participation: isabelle.valentiny@unep.org or mark.grassi@unep.org .

I thank you in advance for helping us to 'connect people with nature' on this special occasion.

Yours faithfully,



Jan Dusik,
Director
UN Environment Europe Office