



## CLIMATE CHANGE

What's climate change? Why is this topic so important? and why is it in the news?

My name is Vaibhav, and my name is Amarachi and will be talking about climate change.

Climate change is important because it can lead to severe damages around the world. We have all seen the devastation of rising sea levels, wildfires etc. Our planet is warming and causing people to take action.

We would be interviewing Mr Brayshaw who is one of our Geography teachers.

These are the questions we asked Mr Brayshaw...

### 1. What is climate change?

"Climate change is something that happens naturally and always has, but recently we have seen very dramatic changes, which we need to be very concerned about. We are certain that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are the highest they have been for at least 800,000 years, and there is a proven link between 'greenhouse gases' like CO<sub>2</sub> and methane and temperature. The world average temperature last year hit 15 degrees C for the first time ever and so we are entering a new period in the history of our planet."

### 2. Why do events happen in this world which are causing devastation?

"These events are mainly the consequence of there being more heat trapped inside our atmosphere and our oceans. This causes normal patterns of weather to change. So, we see more extreme weather, for example hotter, drier summers, wetter winters and more intense storms."

### 3. What can we do as individuals to solve climate change?

"Sometimes the little things are most effective. Especially if everyone does them. Being aware of our 'carbon footprint' and buying locally produced food, travelling on public transport, cycling or walking, recycling materials and turning lights and heating off when they are not needed. Although I don't always agree with their methods climate activists are also important as they keep the message in the public eye."

#### **4. Are electric vehicles helping us to fight climate change?**

“Yes – they are one possible way. One of the biggest questions for scientists of our time is not only how to make ‘green’ renewable electricity, but how to store it. As well as replacing fossil fuels, cars are a convenient way of storing electricity.”

#### **5. Would planting trees and greenery help?**

“Yes. Without doubt. This is the easiest ‘win’ when talking about climate change. Trees are wonderful living carbon dioxide consuming ‘machines’ that give us so much more than this. They can also help to prevent flooding and even stop the spread of deserts.”

#### **6. Why is carbon important?**

“Carbon is in every living thing. It is a fundamental building block of life, but fossil fuels (carbon captured millions of years ago) belong below the ground. It takes 250 million years to make oil and coal but since the industrial revolution we have burning them at an incredible rate. Carbon that we released 200 years ago is now in our atmosphere and oceans and is causing not only global warming, but also ocean acidification. The changes are happening so fast that even humans, the most adaptable species on earth are struggling. Other plants and animals are not doing so well.”

#### **7. What would happen if we don’t do anything about?**

“I’m not entirely sure, but I don’t really want to find out. I think the biggest consequence will be the mass migration of hundreds of millions of people looking for better places to live, that don’t suffer flooding, sea level rise, drought or wildfires.”

#### **8. How can our school community help?**

“By doing small things and by spreading the message. Using resources carefully and recycling are an easy but effective way of reducing our carbon footprint. As a Catholic school we are very aware of the value of nature as God’s Creation, but we are also ideally placed to produce future scientists to help humans adapt and eloquent speakers to convince others to look after our diverse, spectacular, but also fragile planet.”