**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**Pupils at <School name> <City/town> joined 70,000 pupils**

**for one of the UK’s largest global education days**

***Share a Pencil Day - 23rd May 2018***

23rd May 2018: <Number of pupils who took part> pupils from <School name> school in <City town> joined around 70,000 school children from across the UK today to take part in **Share a Pencil Day** and raise awareness of the 124 million children globally\* who do not have access to an education.

Along with thousands of pupils in classrooms throughout the country, the pupils shared one pencil between two students to experience what life is like for children who cannot go to school or have to share the basic tools for learning, like a pen or a pencil.

As part of Share a Pencil Day, teachers at <School name> delivered lessons which included tasks to help pupils learn the importance of education and how, for many children living in zones of conflict, turmoil or poverty, even the simplest tools for learning are a luxury they cannot experience.

Evan Lewis, the founder of Hope, the organisation behind Share a Pencil Day, said*: “By helping children understand that access to an education is not a given for all, we will hopefully give them a desire to see change.”*

*<headteacher/teacher name> from <School name> said “It’s important to teach pupils about the challenges some children overseas face trying to access education. Share A Pencil Day is a fun, interactive way for children to learn an important lesson about the world around them and brings the reality of sharing resources, or in fact having none, into the classroom.” <Please edit quote as appropriate>*

Over 100,000 UK school children took part in this year’s Share A Pencil Day. The day is designed to tie into the aims of the World’s Largest Lesson event, which supports the UN’s campaign to introduce children and young people to sustainable development goals and unite them in action.

Alongside raising awareness of the issue, Hope also sells stationery to raise funds for good causes. £1 from each pack of Share a Pencil Day pencils sold goes to support Plan International’s children’s education projects around the globe, including teaching Syrian child refugees in camps in Egypt and training female teachers in Sierra Leone.

For more information please visit [www.shareapencilday.co.uk](http://www.shareapencilday.co.uk)

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**Social media**

Twitter: @hopepencils #ShareAPencilDay #PencilSelfie

Facebook: Facebook.com/HopePencils

Instagram: Hopepencils

**Facts and figures on Share a Pencil Day and Hope**

* Share a Pencil Day took place on 23rd May 2018
* The Church of England Education Office and the Catholic Education Service are promoting Share A Pencil Day to their schools
* Thousands of pencils have already been sold and in addition, Hope has distributed 15,000 pencils to children in poverty zones throughout the globe with their Ambassador Programme.

**Press contact:**

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**Hope**

“One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen, can change the world.” Malala Yousafzai

Education for a brighter future: Millions of children the world over dream of the chance to attend school but simply do not have that opportunity. Natural disasters, war and conflict and extreme poverty are the main reasons. Hope is a social enterprise which has been set up by Evan Lewis with the sole purpose of raising awareness and funds for children who do not have access to education. By supporting projects worldwide through the sale of Hope pencils we want to give children that chance to shine bright again.

**Where Hope began…**

In September 2014, Evan Lewis purchased a pencil making machine for his stationary business which, at first, could make, and sell, about 2m pencils each year. Through some small alterations and machine improvements, the machine capacity reached around 3 million pencils a year. This made us ask ourselves, “What can we do with the spare 1 million pencils the machine now produced each year?” This is how the idea behind Hope was born…

ONE machine, ONE million pencils, ONE mission: to educate EVERY child.

www.hope.co.uk @hopepencils #ShareAPencilDay #PencilSelfie