**Teacher notes for assembly introduction**

**Slide One**

Good morning everyone. Today some / all of us are taking part in the first ever National Share a Pencil Day organised by VENT for Change. VENT is a Giving Enterprise that supports education projects around the world.

**Slide two**

Millions of children around the world have no access to education and cannot go to school. For those that can, many lack the resources they need for learning. Children have to share books, rulers, pens and pencils. Many schools do not have enough qualified teachers, even have tables and chairs are sometimes not supplied and children learn while seated on the floors.

Why?

**Slide Three**

…. There are many reasons but the most common are war and conflict (like the crisis in Syria), Natural disasters (like the Earthquake in Nepal) and Extreme Poverty (Children working to support families or parents who simply cannot afford the tuition fees or uniforms required to attend school). While some schools are free to attend even the those extras like notebooks, pens and pencils are simply too much

**Slide Four**

Share a Pencil Day is a day on which we can learn a little about these issues. Why children cannot get the schooling they deserve and what difference it would make if they could.

It is a day to reflect on how lucky we are to be able to go to school. Some of you may think it would be great not to go to school but think of this…..

**Slide Five**

School is a chance not only to learn to read and write, to master your maths, science and languages.

School is a chance to make friends, a chance the play with one another and participate in sport, a chance to learn musical instruments as well as doing arts and craft.

School is where we learn to interact and work in groups as well as on our own. School is where we prepare for life as a grown up, choose what we want to be in life and a launch pad from which we can follow our dreams.

**Slide Six**

While children around the world dream of the chance to go to school. Those lucky enough to go sometimes have to walk for hours to get there every day. Many sacrifices are made around the world so children can access an education, we need to help but before that we need to understand the problems children face so we can do our bit

**Education is the single most important thing a child can have to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.**

**Slide Seven**

In September 2015, 193 world leaders agreed to 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development. If these Goals are completed, it would mean an end to, among other things, extreme poverty, inequality and climate change by 2030.

**Slide Eight CHOOSE BETWEEN THESE TWO FILMS**

1. a short animated film introduced by the actress Emma Watson. As part of the World’s Largest lesson 2016 the film is about the Global Goals and what you can do to help achieve them by 2030.
2. Chakra the Invincible. A short animation about how young children the world over can be encouraged to remain in education.

CLICK ON THE IMAGE to open film in a new window.

**Slide Nine**

The young girl mentioned at the end of that short film was lucky, her parents listened and did not force her to marry. Current estimates say 15 million girls each year are married as children.

Share a Pencil Day is supporting Goal 4 of the Global Goals. Ensuring quality education that is both inclusive and equal, to promote lifelong learning opportunities for everyone.

Slide Ten

As part of Share a Pencil Day you may be taking part in a structured lesson about gender equality, refugee children on the move or why it is so important girls get an education.

**Slide eleven**

During that one lesson today you will be asked to Share one Pencil between two pupils. This is so everyone can try to understand better what it’s like not to have all the things in the classroom that we take for granted. Children around the world have to share every day. Just today let’s see how that feels.

**Slide Twelve**

As part of that lesson you may also be asked to design your own poster “I love school because……” so we can think about what it is we like most about coming to school.

**Slide Thirteen (LAST)**

Enjoy your day, well done for taking part and remember. Going to school makes us the lucky ones.