PRESS RELEASE

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Galapagos Conservation Trust

Local Schoolchildren Help Conserve Animals of the Galapagos Islands

Students from Hawkinge Primary School have raised funds to adopt animals in Galapagos, helping to support the conservation work of the Galapagos Conservation Trust.

As a result of fundraising activity throughout January, the year 3 and 4 students raised over £120 and adopted three Galapagos giant tortoises and one Galapagos penguin. Each class received an adoption certificate and cuddly soft-toy of their chosen species to display in their classrooms.

"These animals face threats such as invasive species, irresponsible tourism and pollution. The funds raised by Hawkinge Primary School for these adoptions will go directly to our conservation projects in the Islands, helping to protect these endangered animals." said Holly Forsyth, Communications Officer at the Galapagos Conservation Trust.

Visiting the primary school to present the children with their adoptions certificates and to speak about the animals they are helping to conserve, Miss Forsyth commented, "The level of interest and enthusiasm the children had to learn about Islands which are nearly 10,000km away was incredible. Seeing children inspired by science and the environment is fantastic to witness, these children are truly a credit to their parents and teachers."

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Images:

1. Children from Hawkinge Primary School with their adoption certificate and tortoise toy. Photo by S. Janman.

Notes to editors:

- The **Galapagos Conservation Trust** (GCT) is the only UK charity to focus exclusively on the conservation and sustainability of the Galapagos Islands. Established in 1995 at the Royal Society, GCT raises funding and awareness for projects in Galapagos which focus on science, education and culture. To find out more, visit their website: http://galapagosconservation.org.uk/

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