Hi!
My name is Lisa. I work at the University of Hertfordshire which is a place that people go to learn after they leave school. You might have an older brother or sister who is at a University. As part of finding out about things, does your teacher sometimes ask you to do a project? People at University have to do that too, but it is called ‘research’. My research aims to find out what you enjoy doing, especially the activities that you do both in and out of school. I would like you to help me.

Why do I want to know more about you?
Doctors, nurses, and even the prime minister, want you to be happy and enjoy your life. I want to find out what you enjoy doing because this will help us to learn more about children’s lives so that we can think about other ways of helping children in the future.

How many people will be helping me?
This is a small research study, so your views will be very important. There will be about 20 children taking part.

Why have you asked me to help?
I would like children from year 5 from your school to join in my research and you are in this class. I have checked with your Head Teacher and I have been allowed to ask you.

Do I have to join in?
No. It is up to you to decide if you want to join in. If you don’t want to join in, that’s no problem at all, it won’t make any difference to your teachers or the school.

If I join in, what will happen to me?
I will talk to you and your Mum, Dad or the person who looks after you, to tell you a bit more about my research. If you still want to join in, I will give you a disposable camera. I will ask you to take some photographs of the activities that you like doing - you can take lots of photographs or just a few - it is up to you; after this, we can get the photographs printed. I would then like to meet with you so that you can tell me about your photographs. I will check with your Mum, Dad or the person who looks after you that this is OK.
How will you make sure that nobody else reads or sees the information about me? There is a law that tells us how to keep information safe. I will store all the information that you give me, including the photographs, in a locked cupboard so that no-one else can see them. When I have finished my research, you can have the photographs back, but I would like you to choose two or three for me to keep. I may show my teachers these photographs, but I will make your face ‘fuzzy’ so that no-one can see who you are. When I tell people about the research, I will keep your name private.

What if I don’t want to help anymore? If you don’t want to help with the research, that is fine - you can stop at any time. If you do stop, the information you have given will still be helpful.

What will happen when the research finishes? I will use the information and the photographs that you have given me to write a report, this is for people to learn about what I have found out; I will write a ‘mini’ report for you so that you have this information as well. Your name will be changed when I write the report so that people will not know who you are. I may have the report, and the photographs you have given me, put into a book or a magazine.

Did anyone check that the research is safe and being done properly? Yes, they did. My teachers and a group of experts have checked my research and that I am doing it properly.

What if I have any more questions? If you are not sure about any part of this research, you or your Mum, Dad or the person who looks after you can contact me:

Lisa Whiting,
L.Whiting@herts.ac.uk
01707 285291

You can keep this information sheet, I have also given one to the person who looks after you; please talk to them about the research and decide if you would like to join in. If you decide that you do, and your Mum, Dad or the person who looks after you say that it is OK, I will give you all a form to sign telling me that you want to join in. Thank you for reading this.