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Aspire ~ Respect ~ Enjoy

Thursday 2nd May 2019

Dear Families,

Re: 8th May Plastic-Free Day

On Tuesday, we held a special assembly in school all about single-use plastics and the damage that these are causing to our environment. The assembly was led by Bianca from 'The Final Straw Solent', an organisation committed to minimising the amount of plastic entering our local seas.



<https://finalstrawsolent.org/home/>

Many of you will have seen coverage over the last couple of years of the dreadful levels of plastic pollution in our oceans, which is harming wildlife and even getting into our own food chain.

Did you know that in the UK alone, we use an estimated **35 million** single-use plastic bottles, **7 million** disposable coffee cups with their plastic lids and lining, **8.5 million** plastic straws and around **16 million** packets of crisps **every day**? Only 9% of the plastic waste that humans have created has been recycled, and around 8 million tonnes of it enters the oceans every year, from littering, dumping and mishandling.

The Single Use Plastic-Free Packed Lunch Challenge!

Next week, to celebrate the 93rd birthday of Sir David Attenborough, we are joining lots of other schools to take part in the '8th May Plastic-Free Day'. We hope that taking part in this day will help our children to think about how we can reduce the amount of plastic pollution that is endangering our wildlife and environment, to be extra vigilant about littering and to make an active choice to avoid single-use plastics wherever possible!

We are asking all the children who will be bringing a packed lunch to school on the 8th May to make sure that there is **no single-use plastic packaging in their lunch box** – so no disposable bottles, drink cartons, crisp packets, yoghurt pots etc! Sandwiches and other lunch box contents could be put into a reusable container, such as Tupperware, or wrapped in tin foil (which can be washed and then reused), rather than being wrapped in cling film. Please also make sure that your child has a reusable water bottle (such as a normal school water bottle) with them, rather than a single-use plastic bottle.

Today, the Eco Team have carried out a lunchtime survey to monitor the amount of single-use plastic in everyone's lunchboxes and they will repeat this survey on the 8th May to see just how much of a difference we can make!



Ongoing Environmental Learning

After the May half term, we will be continuing our environmental learning through a series of whole school assemblies about different environmental issues. Some classes will be writing letters to manufacturers and MPs to ask them to try to cut back the amount of unnecessary plastic packaging that we see every day on shop shelves. We will also be creating artwork to highlight the impact of plastic in the environment and ocean health.

Make a small change ~ create a big difference!

By everyone making small changes, together we will protect our planet!

Our JYS Eco Code reminds us to 'make a small change and create a big difference'. We hope that by taking part in the '8th May Plastic-Free Day', the children will come home full of ideas about how we can all make some simple switches to more environmentally friendly options which will collectively make a huge difference to our environment.

Thank you in advance for your support with this!

Mrs Neville and the Eco Team

