

Dear Families

It seems a long time since we wrote about our activities at school - I'm sure you can appreciate why there have been fewer than usual! Nevertheless, we've managed to make a start on a number of the items in our Eco Action Plan, and we thought you might all like to get involved in some of the things we're about to start.

After the success of Plastic Free Friday, the Eco 6 group thought we should make this a more frequent event. So, starting on February 26th, the last Friday of each month will be Plastic Free Friday at JYS. We hope this will help us all 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 bring a packed lunch to school 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. If you're at home, we'd like you to really limit your use of single-use plastic on these days. Do email Mrs Ritchie on rachel.ritchie@jys.org.uk and let us know how you get on. For hot dinners served at school, the Eco 6 group are writing to Chartwells to find out how they are reducing their plastic use too.

After the installation of many new sinks at school to help with the increase in handwashing, some of our 'Don't Waste Water' and 'Switch off the taps' signs were not replaced. At school, we'll be making new ones, and we hope that if you're at home you might make some for the taps at home too! The Eco assembly this week, which you can find on the website if you missed it, has some examples to help you. Do please send in pictures of the ones you make at home - we'd love to see them!

Mr Wilkins has been busy making the pond area useful for humans, and we're making it better for butterflies, insects and birds too by planting things that are 'pollinator-friendly'. Plants need to be pollinated to make seeds, fruit and vegetables, and birds and insects such as bees and butterflies carry pollen from one plant to another to do this. By planting things that these 'pollinators' particularly like, we encourage them to

look after our plants, and in return we make sure that they have a good food supply. We're having a competition at school to make a poster about a pollinator plant: we'd like you to draw (or paint or collage, by hand or on the computer) a picture of a pollinator-friendly plant (you'll have to research these!), label it, and show which pollinators like it. Send your entries to rachel.ritchie@jys.org.uk by March 23rd, and we'll announce the winners before the Easter holidays.

We're also planning alternatives for Red Nose Day on March 19th, so watch out for more information about this after half term. And there'll be plenty more going on in the summer term too!

If you have time over half term, there are a number of online activities you might like. The Climate Coalition are running their '[Show the Love' campaign](#), making and sharing green hearts to send a powerful message that people from every corner of the UK want to see urgent action to protect the people, places and life we love from the worst impacts of climate change. You can download a learning pack from the website link. Wastebusters is a West Sussex initiative that we are often involved in. Children may remember Buster, who visits classes that keep their waste and recycling well separated! Wastebusters have home learning activities [here](#). Another organisation with eco-centred home learning activities is [Transform our World](#). We hope these are useful - we know they'll be fun too!

Finally, if you're at home at the moment, don't stop saving your recycling for us - milk bottle tops, pens and batteries all welcome when you're back! We're really looking forward to the time when we can all be together again, making our world better, together!

Mrs Ritchie, Mrs Neville and the Eco Team