

Together...

Believing, Achieving, Succeeding.

The Reculver 'Blue Planet Project'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2019.

Today, in collective worship, we have been thinking about New Year Resolutions, tying this in to a special two day project called 'Blue Planet' where we are teaching the children about plastic pollution, recycling and what we can do to make a difference. The children will also be planning and working on a range of artwork over the next two days which will eventually, alongside our other local Coastal Alliance Schools, be exhibited at the Horsebridge Centre in Whitstable. It is a really exciting start to the new term and we invite you to share the children's art work in a mini exhibition in the hall, after school tomorrow (Friday).

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Phillpott who works for Canterbury City Council's waste and recycling department, who came into our assembly to teach the children about where their household waste goes and how it is recycled. It was so interesting and even the adults came away with new facts that they learnt today for the first time. Her colleague Sarah Osborne from transport also came along to talk about changing habits on how we travel to school, to reduce traffic emission pollution outside the school gates.

So how can you help us? You may have seen the press release from the Education Secretary, Damian Hinds over the holidays where he has asked schools and parents to eliminate single use plastics from schools by 2020.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/27/schools-urged-to-eliminate-single-use-plastics-by-2022>

We have made a start on this already **but we now need your help to now make further changes.**

- We have registered for a crisp packet recycling scheme and all children are now encouraged to place their empty crisp wrappers in a box that, when full, will be sent off to be recycled. If your child brings home their crisp packet by mistake, just pop it back in their next lunch box and ask them to put it in the box the next day. <https://www.walkers.co.uk/recycle>
- Apart from crisp packets, we would ask that **no other packaging is put into a lunchbox, unless it is recyclable** (ie. foil wrapped) We want to be **a cling film free school**, as this is a single use plastic that cannot be recycled and goes to landfill, so ask that sandwiches are now wrapped in foil (which then can go in blue bins for recycling) or wrapped in paper/a paper bag.
- Other packaging blights our school in the form of litter so any other snacks such as grapes/fruit/plain biscuits should be placed in a reusable pot or wrapped in foil. We will be then helping the environment and our school environment will become litter free too.

- All children should have a reusable water bottle – please do not send in single-use bottles of water/drink as we throw so many of these away each week. We learnt today that in the UK over **35.8 million bottles** are consumed each day, with **16 million** of these failing to reach plastic recycling facilities. If your child has a drink in their lunchbox, consider if it is needed if it contains a plastic straw as this is another way that our animals are getting killed or hurt in the environment – ask your child about the sea turtle that they learnt about in assembly today.

So, working together, we really think that we can achieve our New Year Resolution to become single use plastic free.

If you have any further questions or ideas to help support this further, please do not hesitate to contact us on the e mail at the top of this letter.

Yours Sincerely



Headteacher

