



Plastic Free Schools

Dear Parents /Carers,

As many of you will already know, our school has recently signed up to the Plastic Free Schools initiative, run by the charity Surfers Against Sewage. This is a pupil-led programme aimed at reducing single-use plastic.

To give you a better idea of what the children are up to, we thought it would be useful to give you some more details about the initiative.

In order to gain Plastic Free Schools status, the school needs to achieve five objectives:

- 1. Form a Plastic Free Schools action group and create an Action Plan** - there are about 20 children actively engaged with the group already, but if your child would like to get involved they are more than welcome to join the meetings which take place at Tuesday break time.
- 2. Organise a Trash Mob to free the local area of any plastic pollution** - date of formal litter pick tbc.
- 3. Challenging Government** - we have an enthusiastic communications team, who will be writing to local MPs to ask for change.
- 4. Challenging Industry** - identify 3 main plastic pollution offenders that litter the area and call on them to make changes - companies to target are being identified and letters drafted...
- 5. Challenging Yourself** - the school will commit to removing at least 3 single-use plastic items; pupils and staff will commit to telling their families about plastic pollution and remove at least 3 single-use plastic items from their daily lives; the Plastic Free Schools committee will pledge to run two Trash Mobs and a school litter survey each year.

Families with children who have a packed lunch, will no doubt already be aware of the plastic audit some of the children have been carrying out at lunch times. This was in no way meant to put direct pressure on anyone, especially the children, and we sincerely apologise if the Action Group's passion and enthusiasm for the task has, in any way, made anyone feel uncomfortable.

The results of their audit will be used to help decide which brands to target for their "challenging industry" objective and also to put together a list of plastic free alternatives to help all families achieve the "challenging yourself" objective of removing three single-use items.

Accompanying this letter is an announcement from the Plastic Free Team who have written about packed lunches. We fully appreciate that providing



a packed lunch isn't always the easiest of tasks, but the children felt that this was an area where single-use plastic could most easily be reduced.

The Plastic Free Action Group are finalising a useful list of suggested alternatives, which we hope to send out soon.

We hope you will agree this is an initiative worth supporting, and the Plastic Free Action Group would welcome any ideas and help that you can offer.

Many thanks,

Andrew, George & Sarah