



# Joy Lane Primary School

*A Love of Learning, for Life, for All*

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Oyster Bay Nursery & Oysters SRP (ASD)

Executive Headteacher: Ms DJ Hines

Head of School: Mr M Ashley-Jones

Dear Parents and Carers

As you know, the children at Joy Lane have recently taken part in the Coastal Alliance Art Day with the theme being 'Blue Planet'. During this time the children will also have learnt about plastic pollution, recycling and what they and we can do to make a difference to the well-being of our planet!

Suffice to say, we really have only touched the surface with regards to a complete understanding of the harm of plastic pollution; therefore, as a school we are trying to change our habits and hopefully you as a community will join us.



You may have seen the press release from Damian Hinds, the Education Secretary, over the Christmas holidays asking 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>

As a school, we would like to embrace this challenge and make some further changes to improve the environment and also educate the children in eliminating single-use plastics from school.

We have registered for a crisp packet recycling scheme (<https://www.walkers.co.uk/recycle>) and all children will be encouraged to place their empty crisp wrappers in a box, that when full, will be sent off free of charge to be recycled. If your child brings their crisp packet home by mistake, just pop it back in their next lunch box and ask them to put it in the collection box the next day. We will kick start this initiative with an assembly during term 3 so watch this space!

Our intention is to use our Eco-reps and other volunteers to collect crisp packet waste, as well as discussing what else as a school we could do to reduce packaging, with a particular focus on single-use plastics.

Our Eco-reps have been very busy over the years, and here is a snippet of their work, past and present:

- Devised and written an Eco Code of Conduct for the school
- Worked hard to ensure green recycling bins are being used in each class
- Ensured lights are being turned off when not needed and taps in toilets too
- Created a vegetable patch for KS2 pupils to grow their own snacks and for the kitchen to use too
- Designed posters that were displayed around the grounds to remind all about the importance of recycling and saving energy
- Provided battery recycling bins in the hall/staffroom



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Some of our children are already making eco-bricks at home by stuffing mixed plastic waste into plastic bottles. A plastic bottle filled with plastic waste is very solid and can be used instead of regular bricks in construction. This technique is very simple and is suitable for many types of waste plastic. It is something we can do at Joy Lane too!

All our children are given a reusable water bottle at the start of each academic year, and we hope that in the near future we can all consider limited use of single-use bottles of water as we throw many of these away each week. In the UK alone, over 38.5 million plastic bottles of liquid are consumed each day, with 16 million of these failing to reach recycling facilities.



Things to think about in the future will be reducing the amount of cling film we use as this is a single-use plastic that cannot be recycled and instead goes to landfill.

In summary, we are very much looking forward to working with the children and the whole school community to become single-use plastic free, as well as recycling more efficiently.

We will keep you informed as we introduce further plastic reducing initiatives and we intend to add top tips and facts in our weekly newsletter. If you have any questions or ideas to help support this further, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mark Ashley Jones

Head of School