



Problems with our plastic use:

- Plastic is used in nearly every area of modern life.
- Plastic is used when another, more environmentally friendly, material could be used instead eg. Paper bags not plastic.
- Plastic items are only used once and not reused.
- 48% of plastic cannot be recycled.
- Many products are made with mixed materials making recycling more difficult or impossible. Like plastic coating used on paper take away cups.

What have we done at our school?

- Eco monitors in each class separate recycling.
- We no longer use plastic straws for children's milk.
- We encourage multiuse drinking bottles.
- We source, where possible, products made from recycled materials eg. Our benches are made from recycled plastic milk bottles.
- New bins in the dinner centre encourage recycling.
- Recycled materials are used in DT and nature projects eg. Minibeast homes.



What have pesky plastics done to our planet?

- Environmental damage is huge.
- Chemicals from plastics enter the ocean.
- Thousands of turtles, seabirds, dolphins, whales and fish are dying.
- Beautiful beaches are being covered in discarded plastic.
- Plastic affects plankton too and gets into the human food chain when we eat fish.
- Plastic litter is everywhere in our countryside and parks.
- Some roadsides are covered in plastic waste.
- Micro plastics in rivers and oceans are entering our food.
- 1 square metre of ocean contains 25,000 pieces of plastic!

We must all play a part in trying to reduce our use of plastic NOW!



Shocking Plastic Facts:

- In the last decade we have used more plastic than in the whole of the last 100yrs.
- By the year 2050 there will be more plastic, by weight, than fish in our seas.
- One truck load of plastic is dumped into our oceans every minute.
- 50% of all plastic products are designed for single use.
- Plastic is cheap and easy to manufacture but it is now massively overused.
- Some plastics take decades to biodegrade.
- A nappy will be on earth 5 times as long as the baby it helps!
- In Britain over 13 billion plastic drinks bottles are sold every year and only 50% of them recycled.

This is what some of the children at our school think of our overuse of plastic.

"Plastic you use today may still be here when your great grandchild is born!" Sadie, Year 1

"Always try to reuse or recycle your plastic, this will help people and animals." Arlo, Year 1 and Cy, Year 5

"We need to start recycling today to save our planet for the future." Annabelle, Year 6



What is plastic used for in our shops and businesses?

- Plastic water bottles.
- Plastic lids for take away drinks cups.
- Fruit and vegetables individually wrapped.
- Food double wrapped in plastic.
- Plastic wrappers over newspapers and magazines.
- Meat, fish and dairy products covered in plastic film that cannot be recycled.
- Fresh bread and cakes wrapped in plastic.
- Take away cartons.
- Plastic crisp packets with mixed materials.



TOP TIPS TO REDUCE PLASTIC USE.

- Paper bags could be used for fruit and vegetables.
- The plastic bag inside eg. cereal boxes could be removed.
- Supermarkets could sell dry goods eg. pasta, rice in reusable boxes that could be brought back and re-filled next time.
- Remove plastic from newspapers and magazines.
- More environmentally friendly packaging could be used.
- Take away coffee could be sold in reusable cups. Reduce prices for customers who use their own cups.
- Shops could offer a deposit if bottles are returned for reuse.
- Buy in bulk – more food, less packaging.
- Do not buy individually wrapped products.
- Order milk deliveries from the milkman, who collects bottles for reuse.

For more information about **what YOU could do:**
For information on household recycling visit www.leicester.gov.uk/recycling. For business advice on reducing your plastic get in touch with your recycling contractor.

Please pass this leaflet on to others.

This leaflet was produced by Avenue Primary's Eco Committee, involving children from years 1 to 6.
Artwork by Cy, Sadie, Maddy, Amreeta and Zahra.

**Avenue Primary School's wish for
a better world**

Can we live in a world without plastic?

Plastic lasts,

Lasts another, let's say 10 to 1000 years,

A lifetime of plastics could cost you.

Sons, daughters, could affect them too!

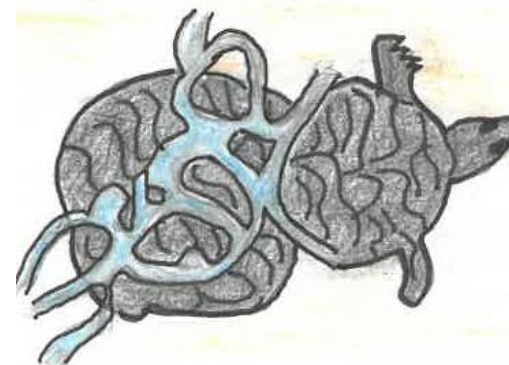
Terribly, it could cost the life of your child's child!

Immense amounts of plastics, dumped in
Our oceans!

Can we live in a world without plastic? **YES!**

So **STOP!** Reduce your use of plastics now!

By Amreeta, Year 6



**TAKE THE PLASTIC CHALLENGE!
LIVE WITHOUT PLASTIC FOR A WEEK!**