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# St Mary's Church of England Primary School

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Dear Year 5 Parents and Carers,

We have been learning about single-use plastic and how it has an impact on our environment. We called our Focus Week, 'Plastic and Me'.

Some of this week's activities have included a workshop where we used cork fish templates and recycled plastic as fish scales to design our own fish; we upcycled water bottles to create an art installation with coloured water, we wrote 'open letters' to the world about how we can reduce single-use plastic – urging people to make a change; we created a tree in the classroom and decorated it with plastic to show how plastic can spoil our environment when it is found in places that it should not be; we wrote poetry using our specific focus spelling words on the subject of plastic; we have been learning a song called 'Ten Plastic Bottles' which we are looking forward to performing and created posters using the PicCollage app to warn of the dangers of single-use plastic.

These are the things we have learned that we didn't know before: how landfill is ruining our earth; that the original plastic developed contained some natural products; that micro-beads are toxic and mostly found in our bathrooms – so use soap on a rope!; if on your cosmetic ingredients a word begins with 'poly' it could indicate use of micro-beads; that animals in the oceans mistakenly eat plastic which endangers their health and ours as the plastic is passed down the food chain; that if plastic is burnt, toxic gases are released.

We were surprised to learn that in 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish; that it takes approximately 450 years for a plastic bottle to decompose; that some supermarkets have no 'plastic plan'; that the amount of plastic usage every year is equivalent to 30 million elephants and that for the 13 billion plastic bottles used, only 7.5 billion are recycled.

We are writing to let you know that we are still concerned about the amount of single-use plastic we are using and are committed to reducing this.

We would like your help in achieving this by trying to think of alternatives to single-use plastic.

Year 5

Diocese of St Albans  
London Borough of Barnet

