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St Mary's

Church of England Primary School

8th October 2019

Dear Year 6 Parents and Carers,

Last week, we learnt about plastic pollution and the damaging impact it has on our environment.

One of the week's activities included an eco-workshop. We made cork fish out of biodegradable materials. The purpose of the eco-workshop was to encourage us to recycle and upcycle plastic that may otherwise have been thrown away.

We were shocked and surprised to learn about how many beaches are affected by plastic. We were saddened to hear about the number of sea creatures that are suffering due to plastic pollution. For example, turtles and crabs can become stuck and suffocate in plastic bags and suffer an unpleasant death.

In order to raise awareness about the consequences that single-use plastic is having on the environment, we created posters using the computer software program PicCollage. You will have the opportunity to see these during our Open Evening on Tuesday 15th October. We have also written to the major supermarkets to express our concerns about their use of single-use plastic and we hope they will take our ideas on board.

Something we now do, that we didn't previously, is to put recyclable plastic into our class recycling bin, along with the paper that we have been recycling for a little while.

We are writing to let you know that we are still concerned about the fact that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish because more than 8 million tonnes is dumped into the sea each year. 90% of seabirds have plastic in their stomachs, which they have ingested. There is already more micro-plastic in the ocean than there are stars in the Milky Way!

Year 6 are committed to finding alternatives to plastic. For example, using metal, paper or bamboo straws instead of plastic straws. We could also change from plastic toothbrushes to bamboo.

We would like your help to consider single-use plastic at home. Some ideas of how you could make a difference are:

- Stop buying small bottles of water- bring water to school in a re-usable container.
- Reduce use of baby wipes and cleaning wipes.
- Buy less single-use plastic e.g. cling film and food packaged in plastic.
- Try taking a packed lunch instead of buying packaged food on-the-go.
- Use re-usable shopping bags or baskets.
- Consider the use of beeswax container covers.
- Politely decline the use of plastic straws in restaurants.
- Consider the use of soap bars instead of plastic dispensers.

Thank you!

From Year 6