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Dear Parents and Carers,

Earth Day 2018 takes place on Monday 23rd April. Our theme is **'Be fantastic, reduce our plastic'**. We will be raising the children's awareness of this important and topical issue.

This year Nursery, Reception, and Year 1 children will be visited by Rachael Rogan from Rogan Books. Together they will focus on a story about plastic pollution.

Year 2 will be walking up to Putnoe Library in the afternoon. They will complete an environmental survey en route and talk with library staff about caring for the environment as part of their story time.

Year 3 will be walking to Bedford Park and conducting an environmental survey in the morning. They will consider the impact of plastic pollution on their local environment. They will create artwork that reinforces this year's central message. We hope to visit the Pavilion for milk or juice and party rings for a suggested donation of £1. We request this donation is handed to the class teacher on the day of the visit.

Year 4 will be visiting Putnoe Woods. The children will be given a guided tour by a Park Ranger from Bedford Borough Council and members of the Friends of Putnoe Woods. The children will learn about the plants and animals and assess the impact of plastic pollution on this habitat.

Year 5 will be thinking about this Year's River Festival. We will be asking them to think about the possible impact on the environment and identify solutions about how to minimise plastic pollution at an event such as this. We are hoping one of the organisers will be able to come and talk with the children about their preparations and care for the river environment.

At school we will conduct an Earth Hour (and a half!) from 12 until 1.30 where we will switch off lights to conserve electricity throughout the school.

Once again we are running our recycled planter competition. These always make such a lovely display around the school grounds. The children need to find something plastic that is no longer needed at home to use as a container e.g. old bowl, bottle and decorate with the slogan 'Be fantastic, reduce our plastic' Please fill with soil and plants. We ask that these are brought in to school on the day. There will be a prize per year group.

We will also run our recycled accessory competition, where we ask that your child creates an accessory to wear on the day e.g. hat, brooch, tie, necklace from materials that might otherwise end up in the orange bin. I can't wait to see what they create this year! There will be an overall winner chosen by Mrs Ward.



ECM Quality Mark



SILVER AWARD



The children will be coming home with green tickets to complete a 'green task'. Please sign and state what task they completed on the back and return to school. A winner will be drawn in Friday's assembly.

This year, we are also asking families to make an environmental pledge to reduce the use of plastic. Some suggestions can be found at <https://lessplastic.co.uk/9-tips-living-less-plastic/>

For those children having packed lunch, we request that we make this a low waste day with lunch items packed in reusable containers rather than plastic bags and cling film.

We are also encouraging the children and staff to walk, cycle or scooter to and from school on Earth Day, where this is possible.

The children will wear school uniform on the day, with Years 3 and 4 bringing wellies if they have them and all children bringing a coat as usual.

Thank you for continuing to support Earth Day which reminds us all to 'Be fantastic and reduce our plastic'.

Kind regards,

Vicky Norman

Leader for Geography