



This year, Earth Day activities revolved around the Earthday.org theme of '*Planet vs Plastics*'. Through writing, art and D&T activities, our children have had the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the impact that single-use plastic and plastic waste has on our world and the need to find ways to live more sustainably.

They have, once again, demonstrated their commitment to making, not only our local community, but the wider world a better place and they understand that by making one small change and working together we can make a big difference. They speak passionately about how plastic is harmful to human and animal life – and how it contributes to climate change - and they not only suggest ways to protect our planet but they can act upon their ideas, too. Here are some examples of their amazing work, their thoughts, ideas and opinions ...

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Year R

For Earth Day Year R have been discussing the impact of plastic waste in our oceans. We will be doing lots more learning about this next term but this was a great opportunity to start talking about the damage that plastic waste can do to wildlife in our seas and on our shores.

The children have said that animals should not eat plastics and they can become very poorly. They know that they must remember to take their rubbish home, try to re-use plastic where they can and have pledged to share this message with other people.

The children had the opportunity to make sea creatures out of plastic over the Easter break and we are amazed by what they have produced, take a look below.



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Marla said *“I made jellyfish with plastic bottles and pom poms, jellyfish should not eat plastic because they will be poorly.”*

Callan said *“I made a whale with a milk bottle and cardboard. If whales eat plastic they might die”*

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Year 1

Year 1 have learned all about the damaging effects of plastic on our oceans and land. We all agreed that plastic is not good for the earth and its creatures. We found out that plastic doesn't disappear back into the earth like food rubbish would. Therefore, we decided that we must recycle it. We found lots of old plastic flower pots and plastic bottle and glue stick lids. We didn't want to put these in the bin. We decided to put them to good use by making a bee café. We have been learning all about bees and how important they are to the earth. We learned that they like to drink nectar from brightly coloured flowers. We got into groups to plan a bee café, using the plastic plant pots as a base and the plastic bottle lids as large cups holding sugar water to help any poorly or thirsty bees.

"Plastic should not be in the ocean." - Clodhna



"Animals could eat plastic or get stuck in it" - Siaan

The Bee Café by Hummingbird Class

Buzzy bees come to our café!

We have pretty flowers for you

Beautiful bees come to our café!

We have fresh water for you

Brilliant bees come to our café!

We have something sweet for you

Busy bees come to our café!

We have hard rocks for you.

"Rubbish in the ocean can kill animals" - Emma



"We will re-use and recycle old plastic pots to make bee cafes" - Alfie

"We will make a place with something yummy for the bees to drink" - Riley.



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Year 2



In Year 2 we started our week by having an assembly all about Earth Day. It was great to think about what we already do in school but also surprising to hear about all the little ways in which we can all make a huge difference! We have thought more in class about just how important it is to look after the environment, with a focus on the harmful impact of plastics. We watched some short videos which highlighted the dangers towards creatures and also showed a deep sea exploration to reveal just how much plastic was littering the bottom of the ocean floor.

The children decided they wanted to communicate their message to others by means of a poster. Their designs are a striking way of highlighting the dangers but also the positive changes that can be made. We love your creativity Year 2!

Furthermore, the children have been learning about plants and have all planted sunflower seeds in their own handmade recycled pots. Take a look at the photos of their plant pots all made from recycled newspaper! These pots can then be planted in the ground and will decompose without causing any harm to the soil or wildlife. The children followed some very tricky instructions to be able to do this.

In our English sessions the children have also been using noun phrases, adverbs and alliteration to create some beautiful poems about the dangers of plastics in our seas and oceans. They have used photographs and video clips to gather ideas which, combined with their passion and enthusiasm, have made some really powerful poems. What fabulous eco activities we have in Year 2!

Poetry for Earth Day

"We have been inspired by video clips, news reports and photographs, which have highlighted the impact of single use plastics in our oceans. We have used alliteration, noun phrases and adverbs to help strengthen the power and creativity of our messages! A class example by Robins and an independent example" by Gracie.



Newspaper plant pots

We have combined our science topic about plants with our thinking for Earth week to make plant pots out of recycled newspaper, no plastics allowed! They are fully biodegradable and we have planted ours with insect friendly sunflowers.

Reduce plastic for our world to be healthy again.

Everyone please tidy up, it's making our places sad.

Dangerous plastics swishing and swooshing around all of our amazing creatures, who are poorly because of the rubbish!

Under the sea creatures like tiny, terrified turtles are tangled in suffocating nets

Clean the planet so today becomes the world's best day!

Earth needs help urgently because of how bad we are treating the place.



By Gracie



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Year 3

This week Year 3 read *Somebody Swallowed Stanley* and *Somebody Crunched Colin* written by Sarah Roberts. They really enjoyed looking at what happens to the plastic if it is not recycled properly and ends up in the sea.

They investigated how this plastic affects the animals in the sea killing them, hurting them or ending up on our plate after they have eaten the plastic, then we eat the animals.

The children wrote their structured poem based on how the plastic damages the animals in the sea, and explained how animals are using plastic to survive. They used alliteration and created different verses.

The children were really excited to recycle their plastic bags and create a flower. They cut the bag into circles then tied the end and connected it to a straw, these created a lovely bunch of flowers.



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Year 4

Skipping rope made from plarn

“First, we all brought in plastic bags but it was very surprising how many we collected, it made us think how many there are in our world. We had to fold the plastic bag vertically twice so we could cut enough plastic loops. It was very challenging to cut through the plastic and made us think of poor sea creatures dying because they eat the tough plastic. Once we made our plan, we had to work as a group to plait it and keep it straight so it didn’t get confusing. When we finished our skipping rope, we felt very relieved and proud that we got to recycle all the plastic bags”.

Isobel, Sophia, Alex and Katniss

“When we first collected our bags from home, we found it very easy because we kept so many plastic bags from shopping and try to recycle them ourselves. It was really fun finding out we could turn all them plastic bags into a skipping rope we could play with! Surprisingly, it was easier than we thought to create something so fun rather than throwing so much plastic to waste. We even got a free toy that didn’t need to be paid for! Once making our skipping rope and working as a team, we even got to play with it ourselves and it worked just as well as a normal skipping rope.”

Aubrey, Ethen LC and Jessie



Artwork

“This means a lot to us because plastic pollution is the major problem in the world. To complete our artwork, we collected rubbish from our field, reused plastic from our lunchboxes and from science day. We only have one planet and if plastic covers our world then it will be gone. My artwork is about me saving our planet from plastic so we can live in peace and harmony with nature.”

Toni

*“I did this artwork in World Earth week because it represents us trying to lift the world away from plastic pollution. We used school rubbish to create the art and watercolours to paint the planet. I think it shows that even small people can make a big difference.” **Olivia***



Poetry

“The cycle of plastic is what gave me the idea of writing this poem. This poem is about the journey of a fish who started in the ocean and ended up with a belly full of plastic on a little girl’s dinner plate! The moral I was trying to show was to not throw plastic in the oceans and recycle them for good reasons otherwise we end up not only hurting our planet but hurting ourselves as well.”

Keira

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Year 5

"This week we have been learning about plastic pollution. Did you know there is a 'plastic island' the size of France in our oceans? The vast, blue ocean covers 70% of the Earth's surface, yet most of us never venture far beyond the coastal waters. To help stop plastic pollution, have remembered the 5 Rs:

**Rethink - *Refuse - *Reduce - *Reuse - *Recycle*

We can make an effort together to reduce the amount of plastic we use and save our oceans – and our planet."

Alfie, Nathaniel, Olivia, Ellie S



"In English, we have been writing poems for Earth Week because we need to get plastics out of our oceans.

Why do we need to get plastic out of our oceans?

Because by 2050 there will be more plastic in our oceans than fish!

What is plastic doing to our oceans?

Plastic is killing the fish and other sea creatures. If we don't stop polluting our oceans with plastic waste, it can even harm us by getting into the food chain – that is the seafood that we eat!

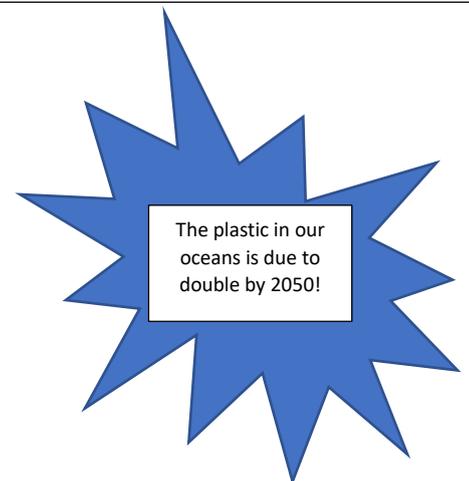
By writing our poems, we have shown that we can really help fight climate change – put your plastic rubbish in the bin!"

Maya and Chloe

"In our D&T lessons, we made bird feeders out of recycled materials, including plastic bottles and cartons. We used recycled plastic so that it didn't go to waste and end up in landfill or in our oceans.

We reused wooden spoons and lolly sticks for perches and collected twigs for decoration."

Pyper and Jack B



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Year 6

Year 6 learnt about the impact that the use of plastic has had on our planet. We researched lots of facts and thought carefully about the language we wanted to use that explained the impact (particularly on wildlife) of plastic on our planet around the world. We also looked at lots of photographs that demonstrated the impact human use of plastic has had in the oceans. We were given the choice of what type of poetry we wanted to write. Across the year group we wrote haikus, acrostic and free verse poems.

Did you know – by the time you have read one of our poems - another one million plastic water bottles will have been bought? Even worse, only 9% of these are recycled!



“For our digital artwork our image shows the impact of plastic pollution; it made us realise how much plastic affects our oceans. We chose the images we used because the whale is showing how animals get treated by us throwing our plastic in the sea!”

By Holly and Lily



“For our art we were inspired by stopping plastic pollution so we decided to show how much plastic and rubbish is dumped in the oceans. In our picture we had a beautiful wave then a bunch of rubbish in the wave, we added a tap spewing garbage in the sea.”

By Mahisri and Joshua