



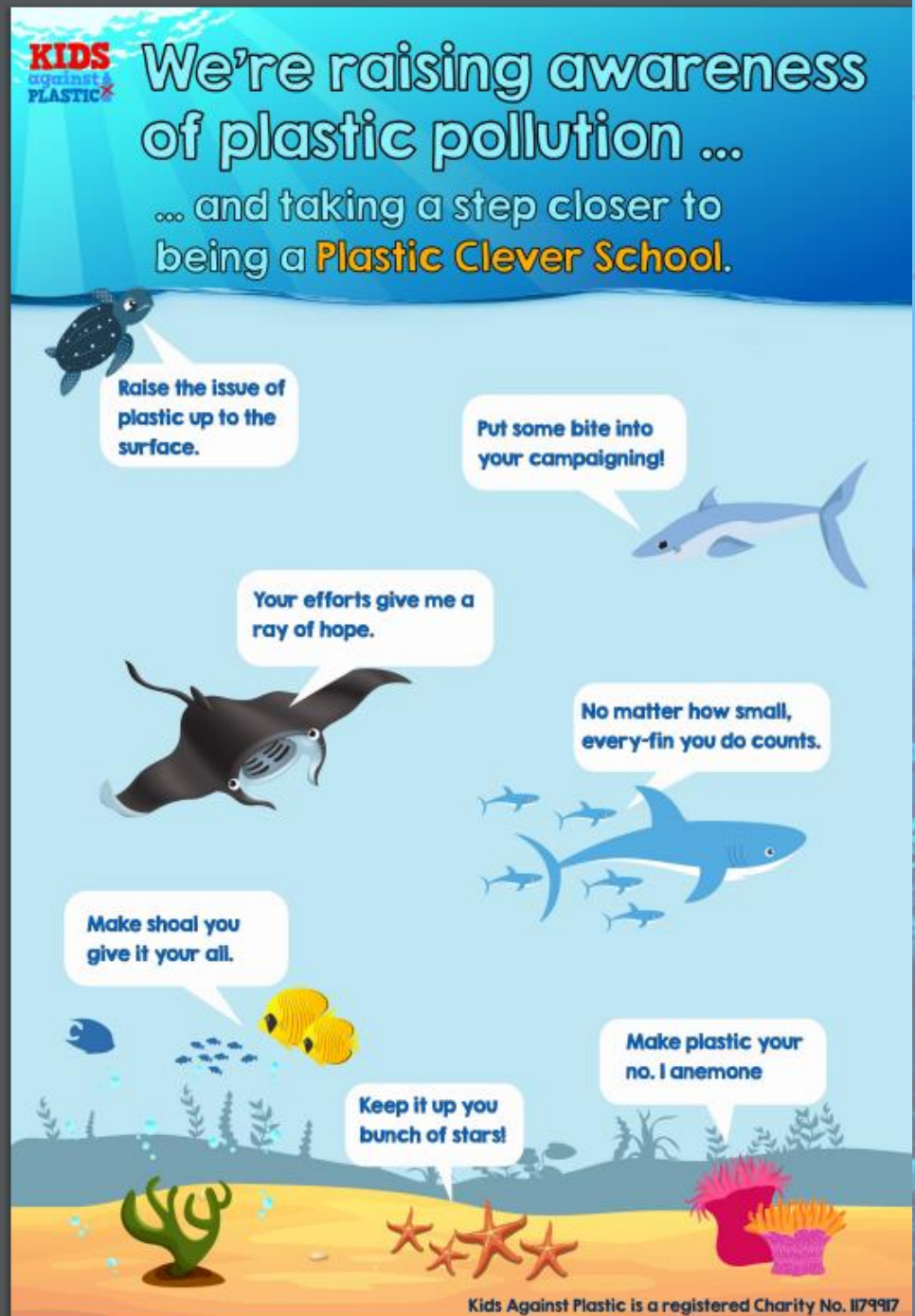
# A PLASTIC OCEAN: PLASTIC POLLUTION

What is plastic doing to our world?

# KIDS AGAINST PLASTIC

We have signed up to become a Plastic Clever School.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!



# WHY IT MATTERS

“I love the ocean and I am a keen snorkeller but it is being spoilt by litter.”

“I enjoy swimming in the sea when on holiday and I especially love eating seafood and fish! Now I know it might contain micro plastics.”

The sea and all that live in it is being destroyed by us.

In 2016 The Great Barrier Reef in Australia was declared officially ‘dead’. Plastic pollution as well as global warming is causing this.

The film ‘A Plastic Ocean’ shows us how what we are doing to the oceans and how much it hurts the world and environment. You can watch this on the link below:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jv\\_2NuK5O-E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jv_2NuK5O-E)

# WHY IT SHOULD MATTER TO YOU

How many people like eating seafood or fish?

If you do then here's something to think about: most marine animals in the ocean have mistaken plastic particles for food and, therefore, when we eat the fish or seafood we are eating the plastic particles they digested.

Globally we produce 280 million tonnes of plastic every year, of which 20 million tonnes ends up in the ocean.

An estimated 5.25 trillion plastic particles, weighing over 250,000 tonnes, are floating in the ocean now. If eaten in large quantities, the plastic particles may be poisonous, cause infertility and disrupt the genes of marine life and the humans that eat them too.

5 major oceans, the largest of which is the North Pacific, now have 6 parts plastic for every 1 part natural plankton. Plankton is responsible for producing more than 50% of the oxygen in our atmosphere.

Plastic pollution results in over £10 billion of damage to marine ecosystems every year.

# WHAT IS IT?

Amongst the items harming our oceans are:

- Single use plastics such as:
  - Straws.
  - Plastic carrier bags.
  - Plastic water bottles.
  - Plastic micro-beads found in some toothpastes, facial wash and other toiletries. They were banned from sale in the UK by the end of 2017, but much damage has already been done because of them.
  - Plastic multi-can holders.



# WHERE DOES THIS COME FROM?

- Plastic pollution comes from:
- Our litter, including overflowing bins near beaches.
- Poorly managed waste discharges, and litter blown by the wind.
- Sewage systems that feed into the sea.
- Packaging and lost crates from cargo ships.

All of this plastic causes harmful pollution and it is directly caused by us.

# OUR SEAS

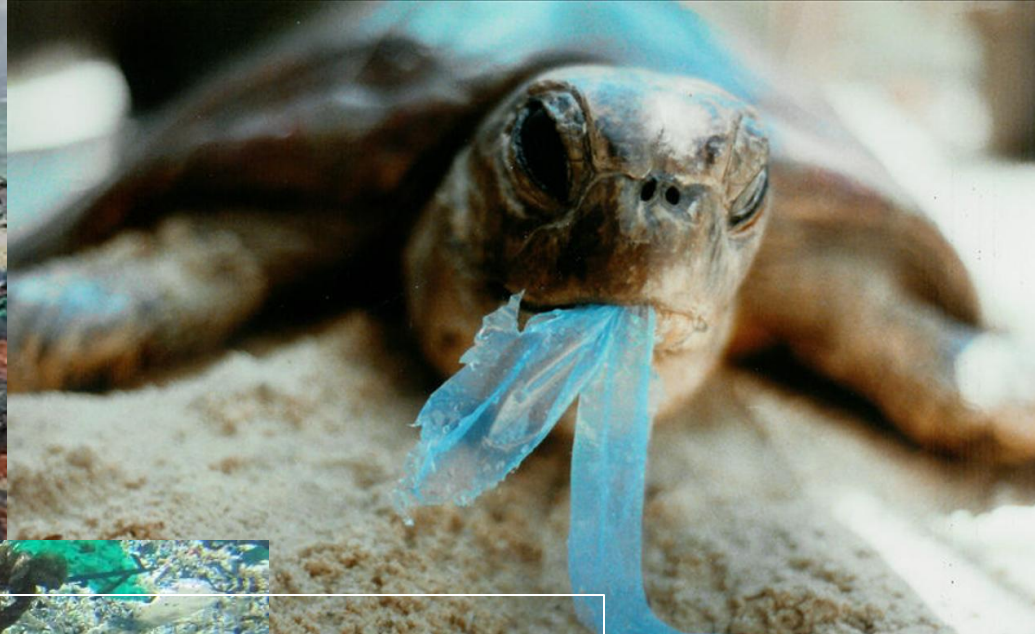
- They hold 97% of our Earth's water.
- 70% of the world's oxygen comes from the sea.
- 97% of the world's sewage goes straight into the ocean.
- The ocean is the most powerful force on the planet.
- At the moment the ocean is our largest rubbish tip.

# SEA LIFE

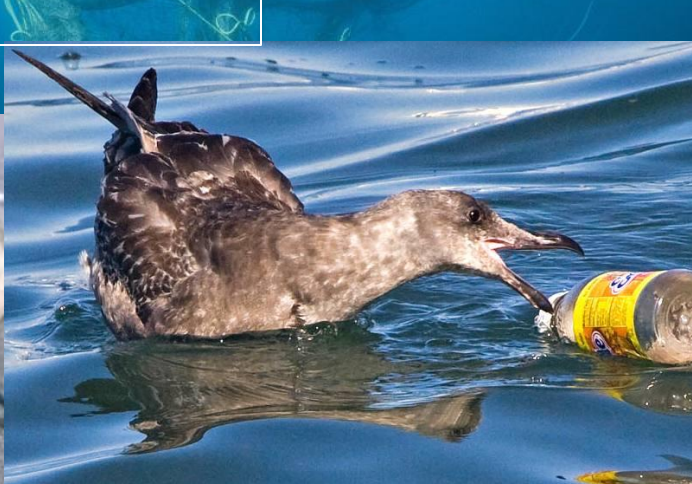


- Plastics injure and kill fish, sea birds and marine mammals.
- 693 species of marine life have been affected including all seven species of sea turtle, nearly half of marine mammals, 20% of all seabird species.
- Every year over 100,000 marine mammals and 1 million seabirds are killed by marine debris.
- A lot of sea creatures are eating plastic, getting trapped and caught up in plastic or getting plastic stuck to or inside them.





This is what rubbish is doing  
to sea life



# WHAT CAN WE DO?

There's loads we can do to stop this situation getting any worse. We can:

- Refuse to use or buy single-use plastic whenever you can.
- Buy a reusable water bottle and fill it from a tap or fountain.
- Don't litter – especially plastics.
- Litter pick – one item per person a day will make a difference.
- (you can use a recyclable/reusable glove because of COVID)
- Remember the 4 Rs – Refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Avoid synthetic fabrics.
- Use a micro-plastic filter in the washing machine.
- SPREAD THE WORD!!! TALK TO YOUR FAMILIES.
- If there is time, you can listen to our new Eco School song:  
○ <https://lingfieldprep.fireflycloud.net/resource.aspx?id=134785>

