

Dear Parents and Carers,



Our eco reps recently attended a School's Plastic Clever action day and, as a result, have been campaigning for Orleton Primary School to reduce our single use plastic waste. As part of their action day, the eco reps carried out an audit and found we throw away a huge number of plastic whiteboard pens. The eco team have successfully persuaded Mr. Breakwell and the school SLT to swap these whiteboard pens to whiteboard crayons which are made from recycled wood. This will be rolled out across the whole school from Sept 2024. Other schools have since contacted us as they are also keen to copy suite.

Plastic pollution not only impacts the environment, but also presents a public health issue that can greatly affect our community. Schools provide safe, accessible places for pupils to attend and learn about the world around them, and thus have an obligation to protect their pupils from these threats and have the power to make a difference in the environment.

In order to protect pupil's health and address plastic pollution, **we would like to encourage a single-use plastic embargo at Orleton Primary School .**

Plastic is made from raw materials, and once placed in a landfill it is slowly broken down into microplastics that pollute our water, land and air. Plastic pollution also disproportionately harms marginalised groups and is causing extreme damage to ecosystems all over the world.

Transitioning away from single-use plastics has many benefits for our school. It is creating a learning opportunity by promoting a greater understanding of ecosystems and our environment. It instills responsibility, teamwork and stewardship, and establishes our school as an institution that is advocating for its pupils' futures. Finally, reducing single-use plastic can save us money and sets our school as an exemplar.

As part of our commitment to reducing our single-use plastic we are encouraging;

- no single-use plastic bottles in school. Instead we encouraging pupils to bring in reusable metal or hard plastic bottles only. This includes at our upcoming School Games events and sports days when we will no longer provide the children with bought water bottles as in previous years.
- no single use plastic in packed lunches. Instead we are advising parents/carers to use reusable containers.
- no single use plastic bags for forest school and swimming kits. Instead we are asking parents and carers to use reusable shopping bags to keep muddy boots and wet costumes contained.

We hope you can support this endeavor and honor our commitment to reducing single-use plastic. If this is proving too difficult, please let our eco reps know so we can try to find a solution.

Sincerely,

The eco rep team and Mr. Breakwell