

## Ideas for 'Improving our environment':

The main ideas for activities are the 'Eco-schools at home' challenges below and also any activities that link to reducing litter and waste in our school and at home. There are a few other ideas linking to improving our wildlife and garden areas too.

EYFS/KS1-

### UPCYCLE A PLASTIC BOTTLE

As part of the 5Rs we would like you to upcycle an old (clean) plastic bottle and give it a new life as an interesting item. How about a bird feeder for your school grounds? Or a pencil holder for when your learning at home? There are 1000s of possibilities- you could even get creative and add other upcycled items to your bottle such as cloth or buttons from old clothes. To help others make your bottle creation in the future please also write a short 'How to Guide' explaining what you did and what items you used to make your masterpiece.

**PLEASE SEND US:** A photo of your upcycled bottle creation AND an electronic copy of your 'How to Guide' to help others recreate your idea.

LKS2 – Year 3 and Year 4:

### CREATE A DON'T DROP LITTER POSTER

Draw, paint, collage an imaginative anti littering poster to put on display in a window in school or at home to let others know you care about the environment. The poster can be personal to you- why do you think it's important to not drop litter? Be as creative as you can and use lots of bright, bold colours to help your poster stand out and make your message clear. As a class group or family you could make lots of posters and place one in every window!

**PLEASE SEND US:** A photo of your anti littering poster and if possible a photo of your poster on display in a window for everyone to see.

UKS2 – Year 5 and Year 6

### CARRY OUT A PLASTIC WASTE TALLY

Over two days we would like you to carry out a simply tally, counting the number of plastic items that are thrown away or recycled either in your classroom or kitchen/ bathroom at home (or both to compare!) Based on your results we would like you to write a personal 'plastic pledge' stating how you will help reduce the amount of plastic you use. If in school you could create a class pledge or if at home maybe a house hold pledge that all your family could sign. Can you reduce your plastic waste and start new habits?!

**PLEASE SEND US:** The results of your tally for number of plastic items thrown away and recycled over 2 days AND your personal plastic pledge (this could be typed or handwritten and photographed)

2. Add some homes for wildlife in our wildlife garden – the bug hotel still needs things to be added, create a home for hedgehogs etc.

3. Grow some vegetables to improve our allotment area.

**Potato chitting** – we will hopefully be getting some potatoes delivered.

Chitting is just waking up the potato and getting it to start to sprout. Do this by placing by the window ledge to get some light (no watering needed). You can make and decorate a chitting tray to hold the potatoes. We are aiming to get 4 sprouts on each potato. Planting day is 2<sup>nd</sup> March so it would be great to get some in our planting beds before Easter. You can decorate or make a chitting tray to hold the potatoes.

**Planting seeds** – we will hopefully be getting some seeds to plant and we have compost. Make a compostable plant pot – this can easily be made out of newspaper or toilet rolls (see below) or a cresshead from a 'normal' potato.



**POTATO CRESSHEADS**

Not only will children have great fun making and decorating these, but once they grow, pupils can use the cress in their potato salad.

- 1 fresh potato
- Paints or felt tip pens
- Cress seed
- Cotton wool

1. Cut off and scoop out the top of the potato to create a hollow for the cress to be grown in
2. Slice off the bottom of the potato to create a flat surface so the potato will stand up
3. Now the potato can be decorated with paints or felt tips
4. Once the decorating is complete, dampen the cotton wool and place on the top of the potato
5. Sprinkle the cress seeds on top of the cotton wool
6. You are now ready to find a sunny spot to place your potato cresshead and wait for the magic to happen
7. Check each day and add water, if needed, to keep the cotton wool damp. Once the cress has grown enough, it can be cut, eaten and enjoyed.

Note: Adult help may be needed for steps 1 and 2

**WHY NOT TRY A CREEPY-CRAWLY DESIGN**

**LADYBIRD**      **CATERPILLAR**      **BUMBLE BEE**      **SPIDER**