

Dear Parents,

Last term, St Clement's School signed up to 'Plastic Free Jersey'. It is an initiative which was started by Surfers against Sewage and one which the States of Jersey is encouraging individuals, groups, businesses and organisations to reduce the amount of plastic they use.

To be recognised as being Plastic Free, our Eco-Team at school had to think about three actions, which need to be followed and completed, to help eliminate single use plastic.

Our three actions are as follows:

1) Using refillable water bottles at school (single use bottles are discouraged).

Children will need to make sure they bring a named reusable bottle to school each day.

2) Reducing our break/lunch waste.

We are encouraging children to think about the amount of plastic waste that can come from break and lunch. As always, we encourage children to have a healthy snack which may be a piece of fruit, which obviously has no plastic waste. However, you might want to give your children carrot sticks/ grapes for snack for example. These are now asked to be put in a reusable container rather than single use plastic. At lunchtime, we are hoping for lunch items not to be wrapped in cling film/ aluminium foil but placed in reusable containers.

3) Learning about the impact of single use plastic has on the planet.

Children will learn about single use plastic and the environment within their class and through assemblies.

'Waste Free Wednesdays'

As a school we are starting the initiative 'Waste Free Wednesdays' where the aim is to have the smallest amount of waste from lunchtime as possible. This will include all items in the lunchbox. When at the supermarket shopping for lunch, you might want to think about buying larger items and decanting them into small pots throughout the week. For example, a large yoghurt pot separated into small containers.

I understand that not all families have access to what seems like a lot of plastic containers or want to spend 30 minutes trying to match the containers to the right sized lids! Equally, I also do not wish our plastic free initiatives, which aim to reduce waste, to end up simply reducing your bank balance! Please don't rush to buy the entire plastic container aisle – start by tackling one bit of plastic at a time. Small changes made over time make a real difference.

Thank you for your support

Miss Pretty and the Eco-team.