



Manor Primary School

'Plastic Free Ivybridge'



We are joining forces with a local organisation, 'Plastic Free Ivybridge', in conjunction with Surfers Against Sewage, to reduce the amount of waste that we produce. This is in response to widespread publicity about the crisis that our planet is facing, particularly with regards to the pollution of our rivers and oceans.

Next half term, we will be running a whole-school 'Big Blue Planet' project together with a number of other local schools. We will spend two weeks learning about the planet and the environmental problems that it faces. Our focus will be very much on how we, as individuals, can play our part to help.

At Manor, we have already taken a number of steps to reduce our waste 'footprint' in school:

- ✦ We have stopped accepting children's milk in individual (non-recyclable) cartons;
- ✦ The kitchen has stopped using individual ice cream, yoghurt and juice cartons in school dinners;
- ✦ We no longer use disposable plastic cups e.g for catering at functions;
- ✦ We have reduced the amount of paper that we laminate;
- ✦ We will not buy or use plastic straws;
- ✦ We have asked children not to bring single-use disposable water bottles to school.

We would now like to take this a step further and introduce some new guidelines that will take effect from now on. Please read these carefully as they may have an impact on your usual practice:

⇒ **Disposable water bottles are no longer allowed in school.** Children should have a re-usable water bottle if a bottle is needed at all. *Please note, however, that we have had 3 outside water fountains fitted, and we have cups & tap water available both in classrooms and in the dinner hall. Although children may continue to bring a drinks bottle, there is in fact no need for them to do this.*

⇒ **Individual cartons of drink with straws (e.g. in lunchboxes) are no longer allowed in school.**

⇒ Please consider carefully the amount of waste generated in a packed lunch. Where possible, please use re-usable containers for cakes, biscuits, crisps etc rather than buying small, individually packaged items.

We hope very much that our families will support us in our attempts to be greener and more environmentally friendly. We will look forward to sharing our progress with you, and hope to include parents and families in our Big Blue Planet project next half-term. If anyone has any particular expertise that they are able to share we would love to hear from you. Thank you very much in advance for your support.

