

Issue 2  
December 2022

# Thorner's Eco Newsletter

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*'Be the change  
you want to see  
in the world'*

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## **Thorner's declares a climate emergency.**

Welcome to Thorner's second Eco Newsletter. We have had a busy month and are very excited by the progress we have made. In line with COP27 we have decided that as a school we should declare a climate emergency, we believe that declaring a climate emergency will act as an important signpost to help remind us of the continued need to live a more sustainable and eco-friendlier lifestyle.

### **Eco-schools**

We were very happy to receive our replies from Chris Loder MP, we thought he raised some interesting points, especially about mining the resources for electric car batteries. However, we do believe the Government can still more to address the climate crisis and we were disappointed that our idea about all new buildings having solar panels was not considered.

In other news, we are happy to announce that we have been able to replace several of our cleaning products in school with environmentally friendly alternatives. The issue of cleaning products was raised during our environmental review, we found suitable alternatives, and these are now in use in school.

As part of our global citizenship target on our eco action plan, we have planned to carry out several fundraisers this year to raise money for charities which help to combat issues associated with climate change. In December we will be taking part in Christmas jumper day for Save the Children. Save the Children aim 'To minimise the impact that climate shocks have on the most marginalised children and ensure their programmes support climate adaptive development pathways' and so we know that all money raised will help children with sustainability in mind.

Finally, we are planning a collaborative single use plastic artwork to be placed outside school. This artwork will highlight issues with litter and plastic pollution, we will be using multi-coloured plastic bottle tops to create a mural which will celebrate biodiversity and the natural beauty of our planet.



*'It's only one plastic  
water bottle' – 8  
billion people*

## Plastic Free Schools

We have been busy over the last month in Plastic Free Schools. Firstly, we established a Plastic Free School's committee comprised of children in year 3 and year 4. As a committee we discussed issues with plastic both in school and in the world in general. Two weeks later we completed the 'Trash Mob' element of the Plastic Free School's programme; we carried out a litter pick on the school grounds and found 117 pieces of litter. We carried out a survey to investigate the types of litter we found, we mostly found plastic food wrappers and other miscellaneous pieces of plastic and we reported our findings to Plastic Free Schools.

We are also very pleased to announce that following a discussion between Plastic Free Schools, Eco Schools and staff at school, we have made the change from single use plastic bags for tuck shop, to recyclable paper bags.

Finally, as we approach Christmas, we will be planning a letter to send to the Environment Secretary to challenge the government about plastic pollution and the continued availability of single use plastic in Britain.

## Eco tips

- **Do not waste food** – 9.5 million tonnes of food is wasted in the UK every year, a lot of this ends up in landfill which increases the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> created by landfill sites – try and compost waste food when possible.
- **Use eco-friendly cleaning products** – Try and swap some of your cleaning products for eco-friendly alternatives, these can reduce water pollution, supporting biodiversity in our waterways.

## Litter picking

With an average of 4 pieces of litter per meter squared on British beaches, we can all do our part to help clean our coasts and the countryside.

## Go on a beach clean



**You will need:**

- an adult helper
- a group of friends (optional but useful!)
- thick gardening gloves
- buckets
- litter picking tool
- suitable footwear (sturdy boots for rocky beaches)

**Ask an adult to take you on a beach clean...**

Check with an adult if you're not sure whether to pick something up.

**Note for adults**  
There can be dangerous objects on the beach, please take care and do not pick up anything that could harm you.

Try not to overfill buckets as they may become too heavy.

You could try separating litter into different buckets for recycling.

cigarette butts  
empty cans  
bits of plastic  
crisp packets or wrappers  
paper

carrier bags  
empty bottles  
fishing net