

Primary Assembly



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.

Your latest results: “Do you know how to be an ally?”



Yes

80.3%

No

19.7%

“Being an ally is when you help people who aren’t like you.”

Blue Coat Church of England Aided Infant and Junior School

“I know how to be an ally because even the simplest things can help somebody.”

Homerswood Primary and Nursery School

“I feel like I’m too young to be an ally. I wouldn’t know what to do if I saw someone being discriminated against.”

Greenfield Primary School

“I think it’s hard to be an ally because I don’t like getting involved in other people’s business.”

St Albert’s Catholic Primary School

42,157 young people voted this week! Were you one of them?

Your latest results: “Do you know how to be an ally?”

“Though it is encouraging that by the end of their school years more young people feel equipped to be allies, at Just Like Us we want all young people to have the knowledge and tools to support their friends.

We are incredibly grateful to VotesforSchools for collaborating on this research, and to Clear Channel for helping us to celebrate and uplift young people’s voices by giving us space to display our special billboards.”



 **VOTESFORSCHOOLS**

Laura Mackay, CEO of Just Like Us,
the LGBT young people’s charity

Your views on “Do you know how to be an ally?” were also heard by:



Just Like Us



The Proud Trust



LGBT
Foundation



MindOut

**Gendered
Intelligence**

Gendered
Intelligence



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Want to share your views with us? Share your votes and comments by logging into your VotesforSchools account. You can also get in touch at primary@votesforschools.com

Thought of the week:

Planet vs. Plastics: who is winning?



Be informed: Made of plastic? Not fantastic...



For **2024**, the theme is “**Planet vs. Plastics**”. One of Earth Day’s aims is to **reduce the amount of plastic being made** by **60%** by the year **2040**. Let’s look at how big a **problem** plastic is...



Be informed: Made of plastic? Not fantastic...



Quickfire quiz!

You are now going to see some statistics about plastics. If you think it is **true**, **scrunch your hand up** like you are squashing a plastic bottle. If you think it is **false**, **wave your hand** like you are throwing something away.





Last year, one million plastic bags were made every minute.

True or false? Scrunch or wave!



Last year, one million plastic bags were made every minute.

It's true!
This adds up to over 500 billion bags.

Plastic doesn't affect people's health.

True or false? Scrunch or wave!



Plastic doesn't affect people's health.

It's false!

Plastics break down into microplastics over time. They then release chemicals into our food and water that can be bad for our health.



Be informed: Made of plastic? Not fantastic...



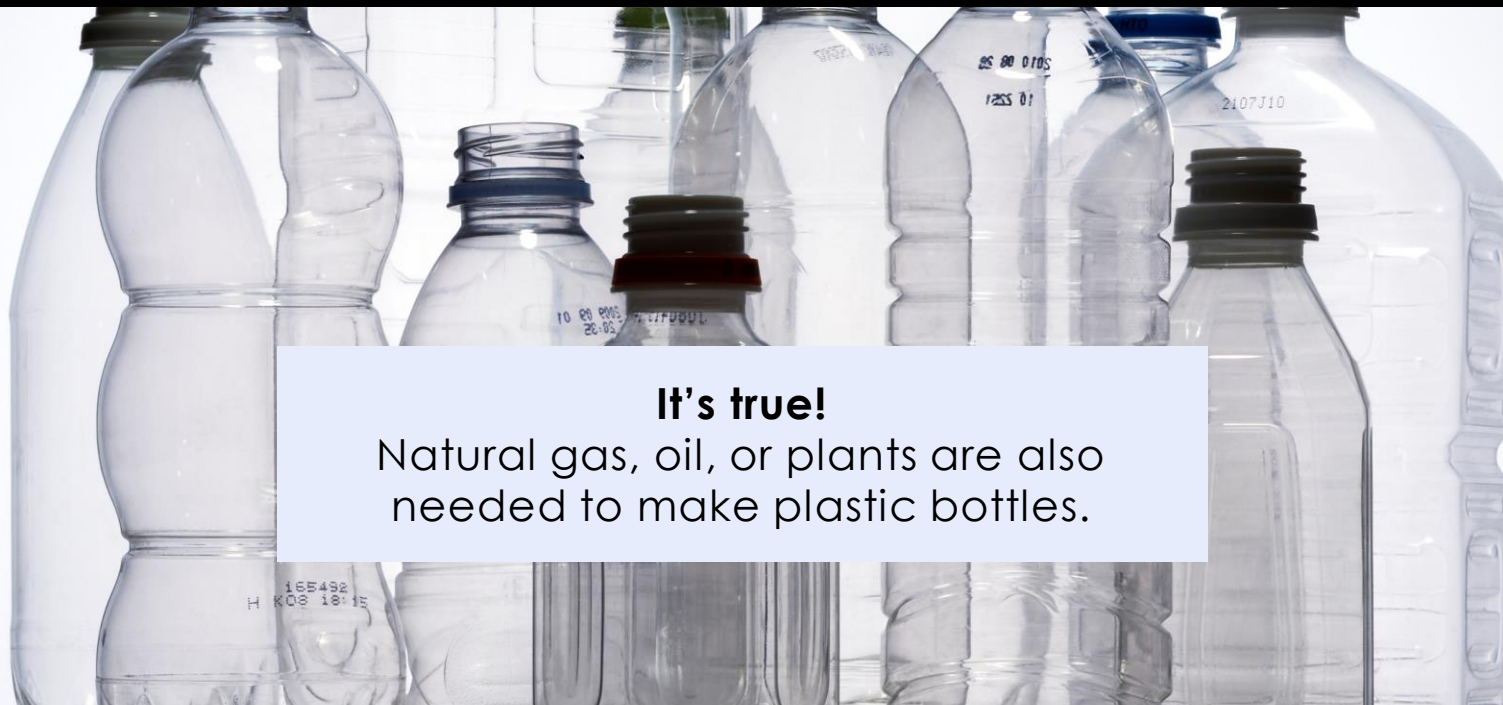
Making a plastic bottle uses six times as much water as the bottle has inside it.



True or false? Scrunch or wave!



Making a plastic bottle uses six times as much water as the bottle has inside it.



It's true!

Natural gas, oil, or plants are also needed to make plastic bottles.



Be informed: Made of plastic? Not fantastic...



It is common for our clothes to contain plastics.



True or false? Scrunch or wave!



It is common for our clothes to contain plastics.

It's true!

Nearly 70% of fabrics are made of plastics. These include things like polyester, acrylic, and nylon.



The **facts** you just read might have seemed a little **scary**, but don't worry: it's **not all bad!**

In the last few years, the **UK** has **taken action** to try and **reduce** the amount of **plastic** we are **making** and **using**.

What happened next?

Let's see where progress has been made. As you read each story, think about what might have happened next. Read the two options and decide how you think the story ends.

In 2015, the Government told people they had to pay for plastic bags in the supermarket. Since then...

A The biggest supermarkets have said that the number of plastic bags being sold has gone down by 98%.

B The biggest supermarkets have said that the number of plastic bags being sold has gone up by 2%.



Be curious: The last straw



A

The biggest supermarkets have said that the number of plastic bags being sold has gone down by 98%.

This means there are now 3 billion fewer bags on our streets, in the countryside, and in our seas!



A new ban was introduced in 2018, and this time it was about facewash, shower gels, and soaps. It said that...

A All facewash, shower gels, and soaps had to be put into glass bottles instead of plastic ones.

B Facewash, shower gels and soaps that contained microbeads could not be sold anymore.



Microbeads:
Very small pieces of plastic that are put into products for cleaning the skin.

B Facewash, shower gels and soaps that contained microbeads could not be sold anymore.
At the time, this was one of the strictest bans on microbeads anywhere in the world.

Also in 2018, the Government said they hope to increase plastic recycling in the UK to 70% by 2025. Today, experts think...

A

This target will be met by 2025.

B

This target will not be met by 2025.



Also in 2018, the Government said they hope to increase plastic recycling in the UK to 70% by 2025. Today, experts think...

B **This target will not be met by 2025.** However, there is evidence that the amount of plastic we recycle has still gone up a lot since 2018: from 37% to 55%!



Be curious: The last straw



In 2018, Scotland became the first UK nation to ban plastic cotton buds. In 2020...

A The Government in England said they would do the same.

B The Government in England had still not taken any action.



Be curious: The last straw



In 2018, Scotland became the first UK nation to ban plastic cotton buds. In 2020...

A

The Government in England said they would do the same.

Since October 2020, plastic cotton buds (as well as plastic straws and stirrers) are no longer available in England.



Be curious: The last straw



In November 2023, the Government announced new rules for shops, takeaways, and food stalls. Now they can't...

A Sell single-use plastic cutlery or polystyrene cups.

B Sell single-use plastic plates, trays or bowls.



Be curious: The last straw



In October 2023, the Government announced new rules for shops, takeaways, and food stalls. Now they can't...

Sell single-use plastic cutlery or polystyrene cups.

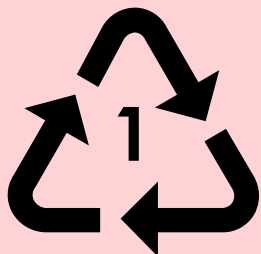
A The rules came into place on 1st October 2023. Even though single-use plastic plates, trays and bowls can still be used, there are new rules about when this can happen.

As you have seen, **plastic pollution** is being **taken more seriously** now than ever before. But you might be wondering what else **you** and **your household** could do to **chip in**?

Cracking the code!

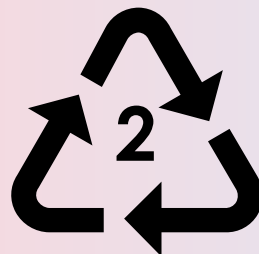
One of the Government's goals is all about recycling, and making sure that things that can be recycled end up in the right place. On the next slide, you will see some codes commonly found on plastic items.

Can you decide which ones are recyclable at home?



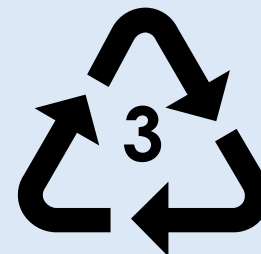
PET

**Polyethylene
Terephthalate:**
Water bottles



HDPE

**High-Density
Polyethylene:**
Milk bottles



PVC

**Polyvinyl
Chloride:**
Pipes & car parts



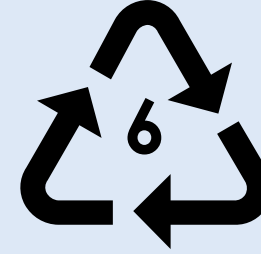
LDPE

**Low-Density
Polyethylene:**
Bin liners



PP

Polypropylene:
Ready meal trays
& plastic straws



PS

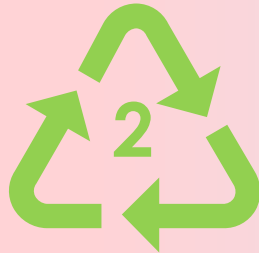
Polystyrene:
Yoghurt pots &
takeaway boxes



Be heard: Decoding plastic



PET



HDPE



PP

Most councils in the UK will recycle PET, HDPE and PP.

You can't recycle LDPE at home, but lots of supermarkets have special collection points.



LDPE



PVC

PVC cannot be recycled at home. It should go in your general rubbish.

Polystyrene must also go in your general rubbish. Thankfully, you see it less and less nowadays.



PS

This week you're discussing: "Would you like to see more wildlife in your towns and cities?"

Yes

Yes, I think more wildlife in towns and cities can only be a good thing for the environment.

Each new plant means food and shelter for more insects, and more insects means more food for animals.

The schemes being used to encourage wildlife into our towns and cities are great for the community.

No, I think we've already got lots of wildlife living in our towns and cities.

Sometimes, leaving lots of weeds and grasses growing can look scruffy.

Schemes like this cost a lot. Even if you have volunteers, the materials, tools and plants cost money.

No

Join the national conversation by logging into your VotesforSchools account or sharing your thoughts with your teacher!