



THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT

11-17 MARCH

Dear Parents and Carers,

5 March 2024

We are taking part in a national survey of plastic waste and invite the whole school community and supporters to join us: children, parents, staff, governors and all our eco supporters from outside of school.

In 2022, we joined nearly 250,000 people from schools, households and communities across the country to make The Big Plastic Count the biggest ever investigation into UK household plastic waste. It showed that nearly 100 billion pieces of plastic are thrown away in the UK each year, with hardly any of it recycled.

The rest is burned, sent abroad or ends up in landfill. We can't recycle our way out of the plastic waste crisis, so The Big Plastic Count is back after a year off – and this time we've got an even bigger target in our sights – The Global Plastics Treaty.

By joining thousands of people across the country and counting all the plastic you throw away for a week, you can gather the vital evidence we need to convince UK ministers, supermarkets and big brands to lead the way at the global talks that could finally phase out plastic production for good.

Let's get counting to make the Global Plastics Treaty as big and bold as it can be.



This isn't about rating anyone's recycling habits, and we wouldn't want anyone to feel embarrassed by how much plastic they use. We know that there are some plastic items which are essential for disabled people, or people with medical conditions, and so these won't be included in the count.

HOW TO TAKE PART

It's easy! From **Monday 11 March until Sunday 17 March**, count as you throw!

Simply mark every piece of plastic package as you throw it away on the **Let's Count Tally Sheet**.

All children will bring home a copy of the **Let's Count Tally Sheet**.

TOP TIPS

1. Put the **Let's Count Tally Sheet** up on your fridge, or near your bin or recycling.

2. Tell everyone you live with that you're going to be taking part and ask them to include their plastic waste in the count too.
3. Using the [Let's Count Tally Sheet](#), record the different types of household plastic packaging waste you use for one week. This includes plastic going in your bin and plastic you put out for recycling.
4. Use the [Plastic ID Tool](#) to look up plastic items if you need to.
5. Remember to write down any piece of plastic packaging you use while out and about, then mark it on your tally sheet when you get back home.

WHAT NOT TO COUNT

- ▶ **Don't** include: plasters, medication packaging, non-dairy milk/juice cartons, nappies, dog poo bags, plastic cutlery or period products.
- ▶ We **don't** want to include plastic items that are used for medical or sanitary reasons, or by people with disabilities who rely on plastic items for independence.
- ▶ Also, we are **not** counting coffee cups or Tetra Pak, the plasticised cardboard material that many juice/milk cartons are made of.
- ▶ Check out the Plastic ID Tool online to familiarise yourself with the kinds of plastics we're counting for this survey.

Once your household has completed the survey, your child will record their results online at home via your unique class link that your teacher will share on Class Dojo on Monday 11 March. If you have a child in more than one class, please use the link for your oldest child's class.

* There is a separate link for individuals not classroom based, and for those who are part of the wider school community.

Find out more about The Big Plastic Count here: thebigplasticcount.com.

We'd like to say a huge thank you for taking part in this important investigation!

Together, we can build even more evidence about what really happens to our plastic.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bearblock, Eco Committee, and Year 5 Plastic Free Lead Classes



Hollinswood Primary School & Nursery

