

Dear Parents,

ECO-BRICKS PROJECT 2018-19

We are extremely excited to announce that the children of Colehill First School will be involved in a new project to design and build our own Buddy Bench in the school playground. This has already been covered in recent days by the Daily Echo and the Stour & Avon Magazine!



The bench will be made out of Eco Bricks and will be designed with the purpose of raising our awareness of the disposal of Single Use Plastics (plastics that can't yet be recycled), at the same time as doing something practical and useful with all our plastic to benefit the children. All children will be working closely with the School Council who will be involved in the collection of plastic and overall design of our structure, along with a few of the parents in Foxes class. We hope to build our bench in the summer term and get the children involved in the fun part of actually building the bench too!

What the School will be doing:

Bins will be set up in all classrooms and offices, and the children and staff will be encouraged to collect together any clean plastic they come across in the school instead of putting it in the normal bin. This will then be used to create some of the Eco Bricks.

What we are asking parents and children to do:

In order that we have enough bricks, we would kindly ask each family to help by making two of their own Eco Bricks at home over the course of two terms, the first brick to be brought into school on **Wednesday 9th January** and the second on **Wednesday 24th April**. This is obviously voluntary, but the whole project relies on the generosity of parents to get behind

the scheme and get involved, so we are really hoping that as many of you will support us as possible.

How to build an Eco Brick

We will be showing the children in Assembly how to construct their own bricks to encourage them to take responsibility of their own plastic use at home. However, they will probably need some parental help along the way! Here's what to do:

1. Wash and dry a **1 litre round plastic bottle and lid** (ideally a squash bottle so that everyone's are roughly the same size and shape. This helps with construction and aesthetics! The bottle pictured below is a Robinsons squash bottle).
2. Collect any plastics that are **clean and dry** (without food or grease on!). Easy ones that don't need cleaning are thin supermarket plastic bags, toilet and kitchen roll plastic covering, fruit bags, bread bags, sweet wrappers, greeting card cellophane etc. There are hundreds of other examples, just throw anything in, as long as it's clean!
3. Start stuffing your plastic into your bottle, squishing it down with a sturdy stick (long handled wooden spoons are good!). This can be done as you go along or all in one go once you think you have collected enough (you may be surprised how much plastic it actually takes to fill a bottle, so the more plastic you manage to collect the better!)
4. Ideally, the first few things you put into your bottle should be a **single block of colour** (for example an orange Sainsbury's bag, as per image below). This is the only part of the brick that we will actually see once it is constructed into the bench, and means we will see a rainbow of colours once all the bricks are placed together.
5. **Check the weight.** For a 1litre bottle it needs to **weigh 330 grams** filled with the lid on (it will need a lot of squishing as you get to the top to reach the desired weight!). The weight is important as it needs to be a solid brick that can withstand children sitting on it!).
6. Stick a sticky label on the side with your child's name and the date. If they want to, get them to write their vision for the future on it too.



Underneath Single Colour Completed Eco Brick

A few more things:

- Do not put any glass, paper or metal in (apart from foil).
- Feel free to use dirty plastic as long as it has been washed and dried.
- You can even put in foil and crisp packets etc, as long as they are clean.
- To maximize the density, it's good to mix soft, then hard plastic. Cut up big plastics into smaller pieces. The smaller the pieces, the denser you'll get.
- Don't feel you can only make one.....feel free to make as many as you like!

If you would like more detailed information and tips on how to make them, or are interested to find out more, take a look at www.ecobricks.org.

And lastly.....

It sounds like a lot of work, but is really very easy once you get into the swing of it. Essentially, all you are doing is throwing your clean plastics into a separate bag instead of the bin and collecting them up. It's funny how quickly it soon becomes a new habit.....

If you have any questions, would like a demo of how to make them, need a bottle or don't have enough plastic, please come and find Caroline Buckman or Zara Thorpe (Foxes Mums) in the playground..... we are happy to help!

Good luck!