



Here are some helpful tips on how to implement the 'Reduce single-use plastic scheme' at your school .

Encourage staff

To encourage a school wide ethos, encourage staff to follow the same steps as the children for example:

- *Encourage staff to also adopt plastic free lunch (reusable cups, cutlery, containers, reducing single-use items like coffee pods).*
- *Carry a reusable water bottle*
- *Ensure there are recycling bins*

Communicating with parents

Sending out a newsletter at the start of the project can help include the the parents and encourage engagement with the children – you could include a dedicated section of your normal school newsletter. You could highlight why you are taking part and what actions you are working towards. And once you achieved Bronze/Silver/Gold why not include an update in your newsletter about what the children have been up to in order to achieve each level?

Suggested communication to parents and carers

We are excited to share that we have undertaken a project lead by Buckinghamshire Council to reduce the amount of single-use plastic used at our school. The project focuses on 12 goals to of varying levels – with the aim of achieving Bronze, Silver & Gold as we complete the steps to becoming single-use plastic free.

There are some steps where we need help from parents at home, we have attached some tips/ideas accompanying this letter, as well as:

- *Reduce the amount of single-use plastic brought in home packed lunches by promoting 'Waste-free lunches'*
- *Ask that snacks brought in from home are single-use plastic free*

- Ask everyone to bring in reusable bottles for their water

The schools Eco-Club have also chosen to focus on these areas.....

Some ideas from Haddenham Community Infant school (who achieved Gold award)



The gardening club also planted flowers to attract pollinators and fruit/vegetables that they can watch grow and inspire them to shop local, in season or even grow at home to reduce plastic/packaging there too. The children take real pride in caring for the plants – they even noticed other children were sitting on the container edges so made signs to discourage this behaviour and protect the plants.

Setting up an Eco-club

If you don't already have an Eco-club at school it could be a good way to focus the project and give the club responsibility to feedback on actions and progress to their classmates. Haddenham Community Infant school shared this idea: each child who wanted to be part of the club wrote a manifesto/application about why the Eco-club is a good idea and what steps they would help to undertake if they were part of the club. Two pupils from each year group were chosen. The Eco-club then designed posters to put up around the school to encourage participation.

