



THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT

11-17 MARCH

Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 8th March 2024

We invite everyone at home to participate in positive change. Together, we can build even more evidence about what happens to our plastic waste to help put a stop to the plastic crisis.

In 2022, nearly 250,000 people from our communities across the country made The Big Plastic Count the biggest 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.

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.

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

1. Use the [Let's Count Tally Sheet](#) to record the different types of household plastic packaging waste you use for one week from Monday 11th March to Sunday 17th March. This includes plastic going in your bin **and** plastic you recycle. Ask everyone you live with to join in too!
2. 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

- ▶ We **don't** want to include plastic items that are used for medical or sanitary reasons e.g. plasters, medication packaging, nappies or plastic items used by people with disabilities who rely on plastic items for independence.
- ▶ We are **not** counting coffee cups or the plasticised cardboard material that many juice/milk cartons are made of.

Once your household has completed the tally sheet survey they can record their results online at home via our unique class link (will be sent out on Seesaw closer to the time). If you have any issues with this, message Miss Pidgeon or your class teacher on Seesaw.

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.**

Best wishes,

Miss Pidgeon and The Big Plastic Count team (thebigplasticcount.com)

