

January 2019



## The Brook School's Eco Newsletter



### This year's focus:

- **Energy** - To monitor the impact of our new solar panels on reducing our energy bills.
- **Waste** - To get the local community involved in tidying up Maidenbower.
- **School grounds** - To build a green house and revamp our vegetable patch so we can use it all year round.



We have already made a start on our plastic bottle green house thanks to your amazing donations of bottles. We hope to get it finished in the next couple of weeks so that the children can start to plant seeds ready for spring!



In November we took part in 'Switch Off Fortnight'. Each class pledged to switch off one extra thing in their classroom for two weeks to see how much energy we could save. The children carried out energy surveys to see how well they were doing at remembering to turn off the lights, computers and whiteboards. The children took pleasure in telling the teachers off when they forgot!

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## This term's focus is 'Waste'

### Recycle with Michael!

We are joining The Salvation Army with their 'Recycle with Michael' scheme. The Salvation Army are helping 'to divert more clothes from landfill by giving them a new lease of life'. Your child will be coming home with a bag which we ask you to fill with any old clothes or shoes you may have. The textiles will be reused or recycled wherever possible, with profit from the sale of the donations being given straight towards helping the Salvation Army. This scheme also helps to raise funds for the school which we will put into improving our vegetable patch.

### The Great Maidenbower Spring Clean

Last year our Eco Warriors took part in a litter pick in our local area. The children were horrified at the amount of rubbish we collected and have been asking if we can do another one. This year we are going bigger and better. We are organising the 'Great Maidenbower Spring Clean', an event linked to the Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean initiative and a community event aimed at raising awareness of caring for the environment on your doorstep. A letter about this will be coming home shortly!

Check out <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/> for more information on their initiative.

### Tips to reduce waste

These tips will not only help reduce waste but could also save you money in the long run!

- 🌍 Ditch the plastic straws in favour of reusable metal ones.  
<https://www.lakeland.co.uk/45843/Joie-Reusable-Stainless-Steel-Drinking-Straws---Pack-of-6>
- 🌍 Use these funky beeswax wraps to cover your food instead of cling film.  
<https://www.beeswaxwraps.co.uk/our-wraps/>
- 🌍 Take reusable cotton bags with you when you go shopping to put your fruit and vegetables in. No need for a plastic bag!  
[https://www.theplasticfreeshop.co.uk/produce-shopping-bags?sort=sort\\_order\\_asc&page=1](https://www.theplasticfreeshop.co.uk/produce-shopping-bags?sort=sort_order_asc&page=1)