



St. Michael's
Nursery



ECO-HEROES NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE BEEN AWARDED 'PLASTIC FREE' STATUS BY SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE!

Our Philosophy



At St. Michael's Nursery, we are committed to providing high quality childcare and education in a safe and secure setting, with environmental sustainability at its core.

We have a dedicated Eco-committee made up of staff and children.

0-2 years: Emma J

Dragonflies: Charlotte

Kindergarten: Gaynor

With Steve as the designated Director & Katie to coordinate the tasks. To gain this award, we were asked to document evidence to show how we have made changes within our practice that is synonymous to our philosophy & vision.

It is our vision to reduce our carbon footprint, to educate and inspire. It is important to us to promote British Values, to show care and

"IF WE WANT CHILDREN TO FLOURISH, TO BECOME TRULY EMPOWERED, THEN LET US ALLOW THEM TO LOVE THE EARTH BEFORE WE ASK THEM TO SAVE IT."

DAVID SOBEL

compassion and democracy within our setting to move our notions forward.

During our Eco-Hero sessions, the children learn all about their world with a little help from 'Cheeky Monkey', the Rainforest ambassador. Through education, books, activities, arts & crafts, the children set about making some big changes.



Once these have been established, Cheeky Monkey is awarded a badge.



We recycle cardboard, paper, metal, glass & plastic. We dry our washing outside as much as possible. Prior to the pandemic, we kept fruit peelings for the compost. We



hope to do this again soon.

It was hugely important to us to reduce the amount of single use plastic that we consume here. So, we made the switch to glass milk bottles from a local supplier instead. These bottles are taken away, sterilised and fresh milk is delivered to our doorstep.



Waging a War on Wet Wipes.....



wet wipes are so quick and easy why ditch them? We were shocked to discover that wet wipes can contain as much as 80% plastic (excluding the packaging) and therefore when they eventually start to break up in landfill they can cause problems with microplastics entering our food chain.

With breakfast, snack time, lunch, pudding and tea being offered in nursery, plus messy art and craft activities, we have a lot of messy hands and faces to clean! We looked at this and thought of alternatives to help make this process efficient but also environmentally friendly. The solution? Cotton flannels.



Each child has their own flannel dedicated to them throughout the day. Kay, who has been a Nursery Nurse here for over 20 years tells us, “they are cleaner, efficient and user friendly. They are very kind to skin. There’s no allergens either.” Staff have also mentioned how it helps the children become more independent.

Wet Wipes – The Bottom Line

Wet Wipes™ pose the question; ‘What if you could get that botty clean, protect your baby, the future of the planet and save money? All with a baby wipe?’ (www.cheekywipes.com). Naturally we were all jumping up and down shouting “YES!” These wipes are natural cotton or bamboo, durable, reusable, washable, eco-friendly and incredibly soft. 0-2 years Team Leader Amanda explains “they’re easy, convenient and easy to wash. They are brilliant for the environment.” We used to use 768 wipes every week!



1 minute use - versus - hundreds of years to decompose....



The PPE we use is essential. Full Stop. However, staff are mindful how we can REDUCE the need to throw away PPE when it can be avoided. For example, we use reusable, washable and durable PPE such as face coverings and aprons. All our PPE & nappies are sent off to a 'waste to energy' scheme to generate electricity. Better than going to landfill where a



single nappy can take as long 500 years to decompose!



As from July 2021, we are asking our families to help us by providing your child with a reusable bag for soiled clothing.

Check out our short video campaign:

<https://www.youtu.be/QDTC6Q2dwXM>

This will massively help reduce the amount of plastic heading to landfill. Any bag you provide will be hugely appreciated. It could be a simple carrier bag, a swimming bag, household packaging or check out these wet bags from Cheeky Wipes in a wide range of patterns and colours. We have very limited stock here at nursery on offer for just £5.60 instead of their usual RRP £6.95. www.cheekywipes.com/wetbags-mesh-washbags.html

If like us, you have always wondered about what to do to make a small change with a big difference but have reservations, we have added some good links on our website:

www.stmichaels-nursery.org/useful-links

<https://www.cheekywipes.com/how-it-works.html>

<https://www.asustainablelife.co.uk/a-beginners-guide-to-reusable-baby-wipes/>

<https://www.water.org.uk/>



PLASTIC FREE
NURSERIES
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE