

January 2021  
Newsletter #4



## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE INK BIN

### UNWANTED CHRISTMAS PRESENT AND DECLUTTERING IDEAS



Christmas is a wonderful time to show others how much we care. This is often shown with the gift of giving but can sometimes sadly lead to unwanted gifts and excess waste.

Why not brainstorm ways to reduce this waste-

Save Christmas cards to turn into gift tags for next year – don't forget to use degradable twine rather than plastic ribbon

Gift unwanted presents to the PTA for use at next year's Christmas Fayre

Sort the toys that you no longer play with and donate to a local good cause or pass onto a family with younger children

Hold a Post-Covid Bring and Buy Sale or Toy Swap

### INK CARTRIDGE FACT:

*It is estimated that 30 ink cartridges are bought every second across the globe!*

### Why not research...



Pooja Badamkar upcycles scrap tyres to make pretty footwear with an aim to promote environmental awareness in a unique way.  
#pune #woman #footwear  
#tyres #india

### Check It Out-

Green King Brewery have signed up to help recycle your confectionary wrappers from those left-over sweets and support Macmillan Cancer Support.



As we are all still working from home or learning from home, please don't forget to keep storing those empty ink cartridges from your home printers!

Order Your School's Ink Bin at  
[www.theinkbin.co.uk/schools](http://www.theinkbin.co.uk/schools)

*Would you or your school like to feature in next month's newsletter?*

*Contact us on [recycle@theinkbin.co.uk](mailto:recycle@theinkbin.co.uk)*

## SAFE ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY: LET'S CELEBRATE A SUMMER SOLSTACE GARDEN

*21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2021 IS SUMMER SOLSTACE- WHY NOT PLAN A MAJOR UNVELING OF A NEW ECO GARDEN IN YOUR SCHOOL –  
A TIME FOR CELEBRATION AND A TIME FOR MOVING FORWARDS!*

Here at The Ink Bin, we are used to getting messy hands! But in 2021, we want to support your school to get muddy hands too!

As we all start to see light at the end of the Covid-Tunnel, yet still face a difficult and wintry few months still to come; we wanted to spread excitement, anticipation and inspiration in the form of a new school project which can be the centre-piece of a celebration garden for your school to congratulate us all for our Covid Patience, Resilience and Compassion.

As we start a fresh new year, why not start planning out a new school's garden. If you already have a garden at your school, there is no reason not to start another new area- you could even name the garden as a remembrance to the tough time we have all had- The Corona Garden.

A great way to start is to reach out to the school community and see if you can 'scrimp' materials such as old pallets, tyres or even old wellies to make into planters. We suggest starting with getting some infrastructure planned out whilst it's still too early to start planting.

Maybe your teacher could put out a request to the parents or wider community for resources which could be popped to one side for a few weeks to get rid of any risk of contamination from Covid 19. Next month, you can focus on putting these things together to create a wonderful new garden area for your school.

A key consideration for your garden will be to collect rain water and containers- it's a great activity for the whole school to get involved with over those long lovely summer lunchbreaks. You could ask a local DIY store to donate a water butt, but even better, why not come up with your own eco-water butt!

## This Month We Focus on LEA AND GARSDON SCHOOL IN MALMSBURY

Lea & Garsdon CE Primary School in Wiltshire has an active Eco team, and are working to achieve the Bronze Status for our Eco Schools programme. Parents from the school are founder members of the Malmesbury School Environmental Project (Elmer's Eco Kids). We took part in the Malmesbury "Plastic Free Town" accreditation scheme run by *Surfer's Against Sewage*

Starting with understanding where we are at-

In 2019, parents and teachers helped the children conduct a waste audit, which led to more recycling bins being purchased with grants for classrooms and common areas, and the children now separate recyclables and food waste in the classrooms and dining room.



### ECO FUNDRAISING

We have a crisp packet recycling collection point (raising funds for Wiltshire Air Ambulance) and also collect Inkjet cartridges for the Ink Bin for recycling; both of which are available for the school and community (£307.40). We also collected batteries, pens, and clothing (raising £400 in 2019-20); advertised in newsletter. Our local stationers (A4 Stationers) in the local town of Malmesbury have been fantastic and have also helped to collect ink cartridges on our behalf. We would really recommend pairing up with a local stationers where possible. A4 Stationers have enjoyed some extra publicity and footfall as a result so it's a win-win! They collect so many they have actually been collecting for two local primary schools!

### HOLISTIC APPROACH TO FUNDRAISING

The school association has a sustainability policy for its events, changing the way we organise our school discos, Christmas and summer events, and gifts for parents e.g. upcycling craft projects (e.g. Memory bunting and Christmas cards - raising £150).

### *No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference*

The PTA is now also working to become more sustainable alongside the school's aims. Our school projects seek to use recycled projects (for example, local donated bricks in the Sensory Garden).

*The Eco Team concentrated on reducing single use plastics; plastic sandwich boxes were replaced with cardboard in school lunches*