

## What Can We Do To Help?

Waste, the killer of our environment! My aim is to inspire all of you to care about this problem and act on it too. The amount of rubbish produced annually is out of this world. Literally, the large amounts of waste going to landfill is building up and up and up.

What can we do? Recycling and reusing. By recycling we are reducing the amount of waste ending up in landfill.

Landfill is just a large pile of rubbish, waste and unnecessary junk. I can assure you that a large amount of waste ending up in landfill has been put in the wrong bin and can actually be recycled. But what is the problem with our waste going to landfill? Some waste takes a very very long time to decompose. A disposable nappy takes 450 years to decompose, if my calculations are correct there are a lot of babies in the world and they have a lot of accidents so that is a lot of nappies being thrown away. Take a moment to think about the impact of this, then think about what would happen if these were recycled or could be reused.

Here's the big question which bin do you put your waste in, the red or the yellow bin? I am pretty sure that if I were to go through most of your red landfill bins almost 50% of the rubbish in there should have been recycled. In which case should have gone into the yellow bin. You can double check whether you can recycle items by looking for the recycling symbol on them. By recycling items that would otherwise have gone to landfill, you will have helped save the environment.

Rather than just pointing out all the bad things, we can celebrate the small things people have done. For example, at my old school Saint Joan of Arc created Waste Free Wednesday. Every Wednesday the aim is to have NO waste in your lunchbox. This teaches children how we can live without as much packaging. Another example is Molly.

She started a campaign called Straw No More. Her aim is to raise awareness about the impact straws have on the environment and marine life. These are not recyclable and cause major harm to marine life, which is what Molly is highlighting. Or Craig from War On Waste, who collected straws from gutters and gardens and created a giant turtle with them. He took this turtle to the Mcdonald's headquarters. Like these people, we need to be aware of our actions and recognise that small changes have a big impact.

So remember recycling Yay! Landfill Boo! Like I stated at the beginning you have the opportunity to help the environment so don't throw that opportunity away like a piece of rubbish.