

May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Reduction in Single-use Plastic and Changes to Meal Deals

As you will be aware from recent media coverage and programmes such as David Attenborough's "Blue Planet II," plastic pollution is a major problem, which is having a serious impact on the world in which we live. Plastic takes hundreds of years to break down in the environment, and it poses a threat to animals that may mistake it for food or become entangled in it. Indeed, by 2050 it is believed that there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish.

At St John's we are keen to play our part in tackling this problem and address the issue of avoidable waste being created by single-use plastic. In the academic year 2016-17, approximately 169,000 meal deals were provided at school, each one including a plastic-bottled drink. Whilst some of these bottles were recycled, the majority would have ended up in land-fill sites. As a school we want to have a positive impact on the environment in which we live and, to do this, our first step is to reduce our plastic use.

From Monday 4 June 2018, our meal deals will include a cardboard-carton drink of juice or flavoured milk. Student representatives have been involved in taste-testing the new drinks to ensure that they will be a popular alternative. In order to accommodate these changes our meal deal price will increase from £2.20 to £2.25 per day. Those students entitled to free school meals will have their allowances increased accordingly. We intend to still stock a limited amount of bottled plain water but this will not be part of the meal deal.

In addition, we are encouraging our students to bring their own reusable water bottles from home, which they can fill up with juice or water from our water-coolers that are located around the school site. Students, who have been bringing in their own reusable bottles, have been rewarded with house points. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that energy drinks/fizzy pop are not allowed in school due to the unsettling effects these drinks can have on students' concentration and behaviour.

Following the half-term break, we are continuing to work with our students to improve our recycling procedures and ensure that, as a community, we are making a positive difference to our environment. We will also be inviting interested parents/carers to share their views and become involved in our future projects. If you would like to be part of a parent forum, please contact Vicky Howard, Head Teacher's PA.

By working in partnership, we are certain that St John's will continue to be a community that cares for and actively supports the world in which we live. Thank you in advance for your help and support with these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Byron
Head Teacher