

Formal Letter

Dear Mrs Cuthbert-Harrington,

I would like to bring to your attention the poor job we are doing, as a school, when it comes to helping out our planet. Hopefully, after reading this letter, you will be left in no doubt that something needs to be done. Thankfully, I have just the solution.

As you are well aware, plastic pollution is something that is in the news a lot lately. Our seas are literally choking in plastic bags, straws and other debris that we have dumped into land-fills. All of us are guilty of playing a part in this. Did you know that we used 3,562 single-use plastic cups this year? Not only is that expensive for the school, consider the cost to the animals around the world. When I was on holiday in Cyprus last summer, I saw a turtle that had washed ashore with its head stuck inside a plastic cup similar to the ones we use. For a moment I couldn't help but wonder if that was my cup; had I done this? My blood boils every time I see somebody using one.

It is undoubtedly important that children have access to water throughout the day; however, there are more eco-friendly ways to do this. Firstly, all children should be provided with a water bottle or reusable cup by the school. While this would be costly to begin with, I'm sure you can see that we would eventually save enough money to make it worthwhile. If you don't think that this is a valid option, please at least consider switching to recyclable paper cups. These are much more friendly for the environment.

Plastic cups aren't the only problem. Throughout our hallways and classrooms, the walls are covered with laminated worksheets. Once they have become tattered, torn or not needed, they can't be recycled. Instead, they find their way to the same land-fills and out into the rivers and oceans. This is completely avoidable, and I implore you to investigate alternatives.

Saving the planet and protecting it for future generations is something that we all need to take part in. You are the leader of our school, and I hope that you understand the responsibility we all have to make small changes. If you do, then we can make sure the big changes happen. We certainly cannot sit around and do nothing. Once we have made these small changes, there are lots of other areas where we can improve as well. Did you know some companies will recycle our old felt-tip and white-board pens?

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns and ideas. I hope that you take them on board and help us to make a change.

Best regards

Reading task:

1. How does the author feel when they hope the head teacher will be left in no doubt?
2. How did the author feel when they saw the turtle with its head in a cup? How do you know?
3. How does the author feel about laminated displays? What gives you this impression?
4. Overall, do you think the author is for or against the use of plastic in school? Use evidence to explain.
5. List two things that are choking our oceans.
6. Why has the author used the word choking to explain the impact on the ocean?
7. How many plastic cups did the school use last year?
8. Summarise the main concerns of the author that are listed in the letter.

Writing task:

Watch the video I have attached to the blog. Use the facts given in the video to write a **formal persuasive** letter to your local MP about your growing concerns about deforestation and what it is doing to our planet. Use the letter above to help you, you can magpie sentence starters and effective vocabulary! Remember, you want them to do something about this, so the more powerful, emotional and persuasive, the better!

Here are some persuasive features you could use:

- Rhetorical questions
- Hyperbole (exaggeration)
- Emotive language
- Facts
- Repetition
- Alliteration
- Imperative (bossy) verbs