

Why not run a Use Less Stuff Day during Waste Week? It's an opportunity to promote the 3Rs and encourage positive behaviour change.

General advice

- ▶ **Plan in advance** – give parents at least a week's notice and 'warm up' the students and teachers a month beforehand.
- ▶ **Link Use Less Stuff Day into the curriculum** – PSHE is an obvious fit, but there are links with Geography, English, Maths, and Science too, or upcoming cross-curricular topics.
- ▶ **Adopt a theme for your day** – it'll give the campaign a clearer focus and help you manage the day's activities.
- ▶ **Get the community involved** – parents will help extend the reach of your campaign, while local businesses and charities bring a real-life context to your activities.
- ▶ **Make Use Less Stuff Day an opportunity to raise funds** – for the school or charity.

Ideas for whole school activities

- ▶ Ask students to come into school wearing something they've upcycled – you could even run a fashion show! Use the opportunity to raise funds and/or hold a competition for the most creative outfit.
- ▶ Run an assembly looking at the topic of using less stuff – there are lots of **waste-themed presentations** for different ages to choose from on the Pod.
- ▶ Play some games to bring learning to life (e.g. **Zingy's Recycling Adventure for 4-7s**) or try some old-fashioned party games involving a bag of secondhand clothes!
- ▶ Encourage parents to have a clearout at home to find things they no longer use – you could run a bring and buy sale to raise funds for a popular cause. Or why not make a display of some of the things people brought in to show the breadth of unwanted 'stuff' we all have around home?

- ▶ Find parents who are skilled in a particular area (e.g. electronics or welding) and see if they are willing to hold a 'fix-it' session to repair old or broken 'stuff'.
- ▶ Do any parents, governors or nearby companies work in a waste-related business? Invite them in to talk about their work to the students.
- ▶ Ask everyone to write down on a piece of recycled paper what Use Less Stuff Day means to them. Display the notes somewhere prominent – why not ask older arts students to make the notes into a form of collage? The insight could help you plan next year's event!

Ideas for class/group activities

- ▶ Encourage each class to make a list of five simple things everyone could do to use less stuff (e.g. bring in tap water in a drinks bottle). Hold a competition and let the Eco Club decide on the winning ideas.
- ▶ Run a 'swap shop' – you could theme this around a topic (e.g. clothes / computer games etc.) Students at St Ursula's Junior School set up a '(Re)Love Our Stuff' secondhand clothes shop to help change attitudes towards secondhand clothing: www.eco-schools.org.uk/waste-relove-stuff-st-ursulas-junior-school/
- ▶ Ask students to investigate the Circular Economy (www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy) and any manufacturers that have moved to this model – what lessons do they offer?
- ▶ Hold a discussion about consumerism and the importance of valuing time over money. Would any students be willing to give time to help others? Consider getting involved in the Pod's **Helping Hands campaign** – the **Inspiration board** might throw up some ideas you could try in your community.
- ▶ Be proactive – set up a recycling scheme for a new waste stream (e.g. ink cartridges or e-waste) and launch it on Use Less Stuff Day. Get advice from www.recyclenow.com/recycling-knowledge/getting-started/recycling-at-school/get-involved.

How you celebrate Use Less Stuff Day is entirely up to you – but **DO** let us know what you get up to! **Post a blog on the Pod or tweet using the hashtag #uselessstuffday**