

MONSTERS ON A MISSION!!



There's a new teacher's pet in town.

Your class has been given a monster with a mission - to help you recycle all of your food waste!

Food waste is really **bad** for the planet, especially when it is thrown away in a normal rubbish bin. This is because when the food breaks down it releases a harmful greenhouse gas called **methane**, which is one of the causes of **climate change**.

This is **bad news** for the environment and affects all of the people and animals on our planet. But the **good news** is, there is something YOU can do to help!

The number one best thing to do is eat all of your food, or save it to eat another time. But if it can't be eaten, and it can't be saved, then it needs to be **recycled**!

This is where your new teacher's pet comes in...

CLASS MISSION STATEMENT:

Feed the teacher's pet, to help save the planet!

By feeding your teacher's pet all of your unwanted food scraps like banana peels, orange skins and apple cores, these can be turned into **energy** through a process called **recycling**.

When food waste is recycled, it doesn't make the bad, harmful gas. Instead it makes a good gas called **bio-gas** which can be used to produce energy. It also makes **fertiliser** too – which helps crops of new food grow big and strong.

Make sure not to feed your pet any packaging like plastic or cardboard as this will make it unwell.

Recycling one banana peel provides enough energy to power a mobile phone twice!!

Every classroom in your school, and every school in your town, has been given a teacher's pet, with one simple mission... **to help you recycle your food waste, and ultimately, help save the planet from climate change!!**

BUT, the monsters can only do this with YOUR help...

What you need to do next...

Step 1. Decide what your teacher's pet is going to look like.

You have been provided with various features to create your monster.

Decide which ones you want to use - there are different ways you could do this, e.g.

- A class activity to vote for which features to use
- A class activity related to food waste and those who win get to decide

Once you have decided what features to use, stick these firmly on the top of your caddy lid – see examples.

Step 2. Give your teacher's pet a name

This is entirely up to you and can be as silly as you like! Ideas to help you choose:

- Pupils can shout out suggestions to go up on the white board and then narrow this down with a vote – most cheers wins.
- Pupils can put suggested names in the caddy and select one at random.

Step 3. Decide where your teacher's pet will live

Ideally the food waste recycling caddy, mixed recycling container and general waste bin will all be next to each other, or as close together as possible. Do what makes sense for your classroom.

If pupils do not eat food in your classroom, where else could this go in your school to help capture as much food waste as possible? Perhaps your canteen or by playground entrances might be more suitable.

Step 4. Make sure everyone knows what to feed your teacher's pet

- Put both your food waste and mixed recycling posters up (*included in your pack*) and discuss these with the class to ensure everyone understands the importance of putting the right material in the right bin.
- Show the presentation / video to the class – *this is available on our website and will also be emailed to all schools.*
- Explore the activity resources for a range of in-class and homework ideas – *these are available on our website and will also be emailed to all schools.*

Step 5. Decide how to look after your teacher's pet

If your teacher's pet lives in your classroom, decide who will be responsible for emptying this into your school's main food waste wheeled bin and how frequently.

'Recycling Champions' or 'Monster Monitors' could be nominated for the year / term / month / week to always be responsible for emptying the caddy (and perhaps the recycling container too).

Or perhaps the caretakers or cleaners will be responsible for emptying this food waste out instead.

A benefit of appointing classroom monitors is that they can also be responsible for checking that the right items are being put in the right container and flag up if there are any issues. No packaging should be fed to the monster, all recyclables should go into the mixed recycling, and anything that can't be recycled or reused should go in the general waste bin.

Schools can also decide whether to line the caddies with newspaper or plastic bags (any plastic bag besides black bags are allowed), or whether to go liner-free. If not using liners, we recommend rinsing the caddy out between uses. Caddies should be cleaned regularly as and when needed.

Resources

A range of 'Monsters on a Mission' resources will be made available to download from: www.dacorum.gov.uk/schoolrecycling. All schools will also be emailed with this information.

The activities will vary and will include a range of homework and classroom ideas that will tie in with various other curriculum areas such as creative writing, being artistic and learning about the world.

You will also be provided with a resource sheet that signposts to other environmental content specifically designed for primary schools to help support you with building lesson plans around this.

We are also available to visit your school and deliver informative talks, please email us to find out more: recycle@dacorum.gov.uk

Example monster faces...

The examples below are purely to show possible monster faces, not how competition entries should look.





MONSTER COMPETITION



Show us your monsters and win prizes!

We really want to see what your monster looks like and how it is settling into its new home. We are calling on all classrooms to send over their best monster photos and videos!

You can get as creative with these as you like, the more imaginative the better!

Every class who submits a photo or video of their monster by the deadline of Friday 22 October will receive a prize.

All photos and videos will be posted on social media and during Halloween week residents will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite monsters. As such, please ensure that if pupils are used in photos/videos the correct permissions are in place to allow this.

The winning school will receive eco-themed prizes worth up to £250!

The winning school will be featured in the school's SEED newsletter, as well as via the Council's various other communication channels.

Send all entries to recycle@dacorum.gov.uk

If the file size exceeds 10MB please send via WeTransfer.

Alongside the photo or video, let us know:

- Teacher's Pet Name
- Year Group
- Teacher's name
- Any anecdotal information about how your class have engaged with 'monsters on a mission'

Full competition terms and conditions available here: www.dacorum.gov.uk/schoolrecycling