

Topic Learning – our environment and the effects of climate change

At Verwood First School we believe children need to know about the world that is beyond their doorstep and have an awareness of caring for the environment and its management and sustainability. We also want our children to learn by 'doing' and be actively involved and engaged in their learning. This weeks topic has been prominent in the news in recent years and the simple science experiments suggested will encourage children to ask and answer questions about the planet and effects of climate change.

Start by watching a video, such as this one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ko6GNA58YOA> or the powerpoint that is attached. Go through each slide and discuss its contents, encouraging your child to ask questions about what they have seen or read.

Simple science experiments for all:

Melting sea ice: Set up two small trays (eg, food containers) and fill with water and freeze overnight. Place an object on top of each (eg a small polar bear, penguin or toy animal if you have one) and put one container in a warm room and one back in the freezer (making sure one melts and one stays frozen). What happens to the polar bears home in each container?

Urban areas v rural areas: Start by discussing what an urban area is (built up, large city, lots of people, tall buildings) and what a rural area is (more remote, quieter, less buildings, more green space). Explain that urban areas are often hotter than rural areas due to tall buildings that absorb heat and lack of green spaces. Place a white and black t shirt side by side in the sun. After a while touch the t shirts. What do you notice? Which is warmer and why? The white t shirt, like the rural environment, reflects heat and the black t shirt, like the urban environment, absorbs it. What would it be like to work in an urban environment in the summer months?

Other ideas:

KS1: Create a poster drawing the different ways we can make a difference and help our environment. You could label the pictures

Create a poster encouraging people to recycle their rubbish

Draw a line down the middle of a piece of paper and divide it into 'Rubbish' and 'Recycling'. Can you draw some objects which belong in each category?

KS2: Create an information page detailing the different ways people can make a difference and help the environment. You can use sub headings such as 'Transport' and 'Recycling.'

Divide a piece of paper into 3 sections: Rubbish, Recycling and compost. Can you draw some objects which belong in each category?

Create a tally chart of all the different items you have thrown away or recycled this week eg,

| | |
|------------|--|
| Cardboard | |
| Paper | |
| Plastics | |
| Food waste | |

Which was the most popular? What did you recycle the least?