

Passionate Pupils Tackle Environmental Concerns with Green Party Rep.



Curious pupils at Noremarsh Junior School had an inspiring end of term visit from local member of the Green Party, Margaret Green. Margaret spent time sharing her knowledge with Year 4 classes about the environment, recycling and how they can get involved.

Year 4, who are currently learning about the ocean, came well prepared with many intelligent and curious questions for Margaret to answer. They were particularly concerned about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch with questions including;



“Why aren’t we arresting people for dumping rubbish in rivers and oceans?” and “What is the UK doing about cleaning the Oceans?”

Margaret Green sadly explained, “The problem is that the oceans belong to everyone, so you are asking nations to fund research and environmental ships, crews and fuel. No one nation wants to be responsible for paying for it all.”

The children were also very concerned about why we have landfill sites and why MacDonalDs can’t use metal straws.

Margaret agreed, “We shouldn’t have landfill sites, we don’t need to throw everything away. Countries like Sweden have found ways to repurpose waste so it is possible.” On the subject of metal straws she continued, “The problem with metal straws is they could cause injury if you were to fall with it in your mouth, so softer materials are better – but do you really need to drink with a straw?”

Talking about the importance of reusing instead of buying new, Margaret spoke about Repair Cafés. “In a Repair Café, you’ll find tools and materials to help you make any repairs you need; on clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, toys, et cetera. You’ll also find expert volunteers, with repair skills in all kinds of fields,” adding, “These cafes are all over the world, but you have local ones in Swindon and Malmesbury.”

Year 4 Teacher Penny Lander, was full of praise for Margaret, "What an amazing woman, who has so much knowledge and delivered it so enthusiastically.

The children were completely focused in the session and had so many intelligent and deep questions. We all learnt a great deal from her and many - including myself - changed the way we think about plastic - it's not the plastic that is the problem, it's the way we use and deal with it.

Thank you Margaret!"

Margaret's final advice to pupils was; "Don't waste anything, don't buy new unless you can't mend it or it is worn out."

For more information on Repair Cafes please visit: www.repaircafe.org/en/

Local repair cafes can be found at: Swindon Repair Café SN1 3LZ and Malmesbury Repair Café SN16 9BZ

Noremarsh Junior School is part of Royal Wootton Bassett Academy Trust. Visit www.noremarsh.wilts.sch.uk for more information or to arrange a visit.

