

**Bord na Móna**  
bnmrecycling.ie

**S C H O O L S**

**Interactive Schools Pack 2024/25**



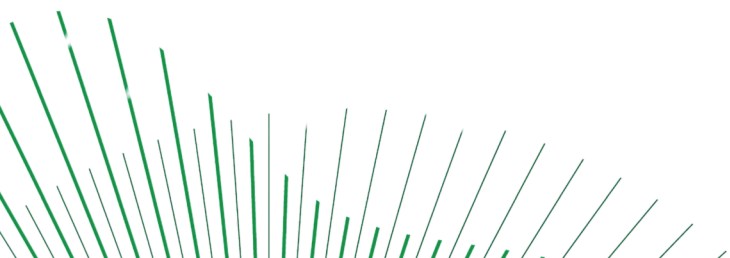
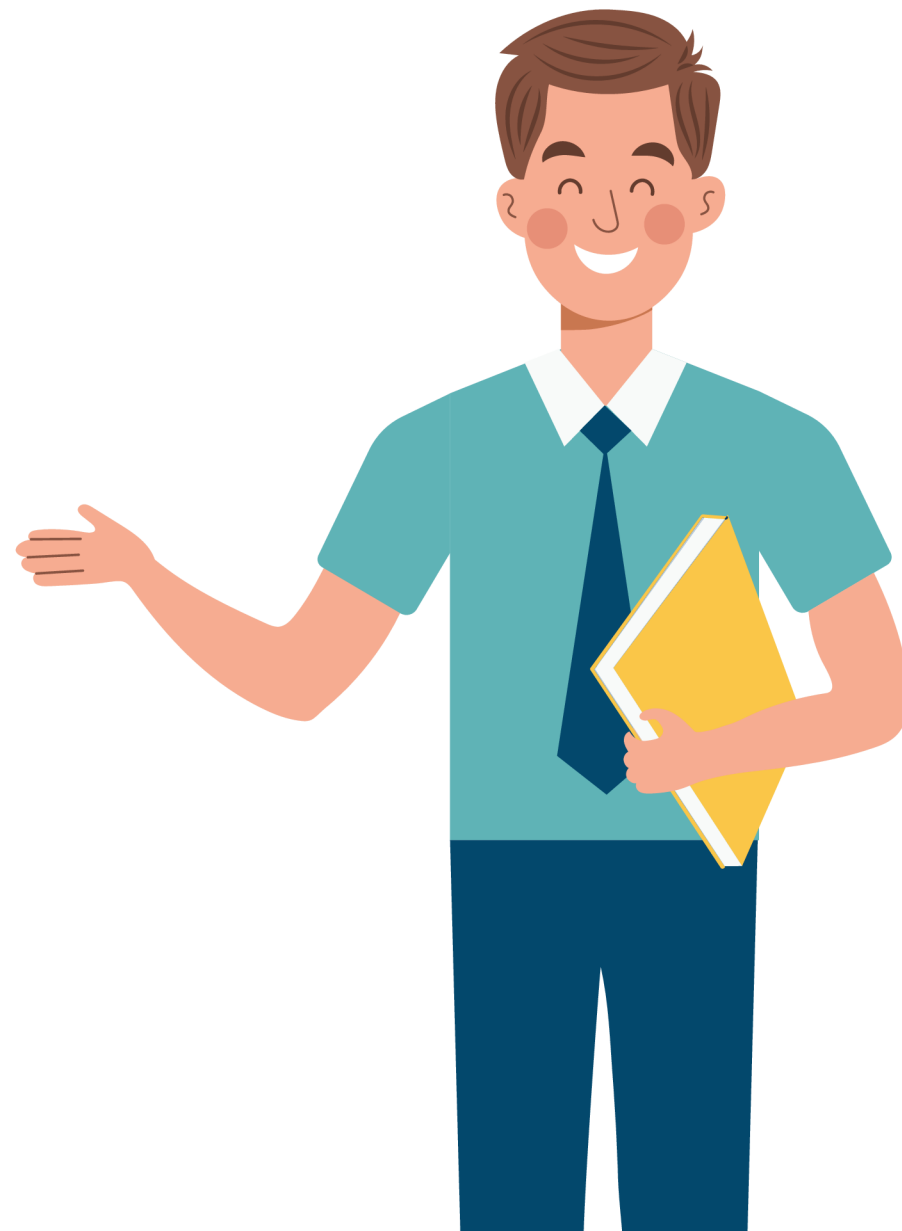
# Hello Teacher!

At [Bord na Móna Recycling](https://www.bnmrecycling.ie), we're going beyond waste management; we're rethinking waste solutions for climate action to help create a cleaner future for everyone.

Now we're taking the next step in helping Ireland become more waste conscious by educating our future recyclers so they can help preserve our planet too.

We've all had to change how we think about waste and with the help of your school we can continue to minimise landfill, recover resources and help create a more sustainable future.

Through fun games, educational facts, and tips, this interactive pack helps show the next generation how they can make a big difference. What could be more important than that?



# Lunch Waste

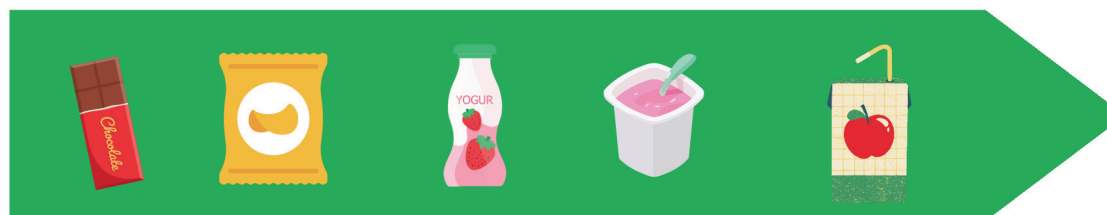
See what lunchbox items go in each of your classroom bins.



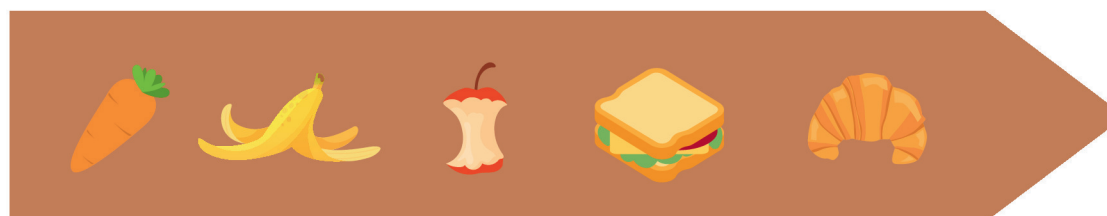
## Recyclables



## General Waste

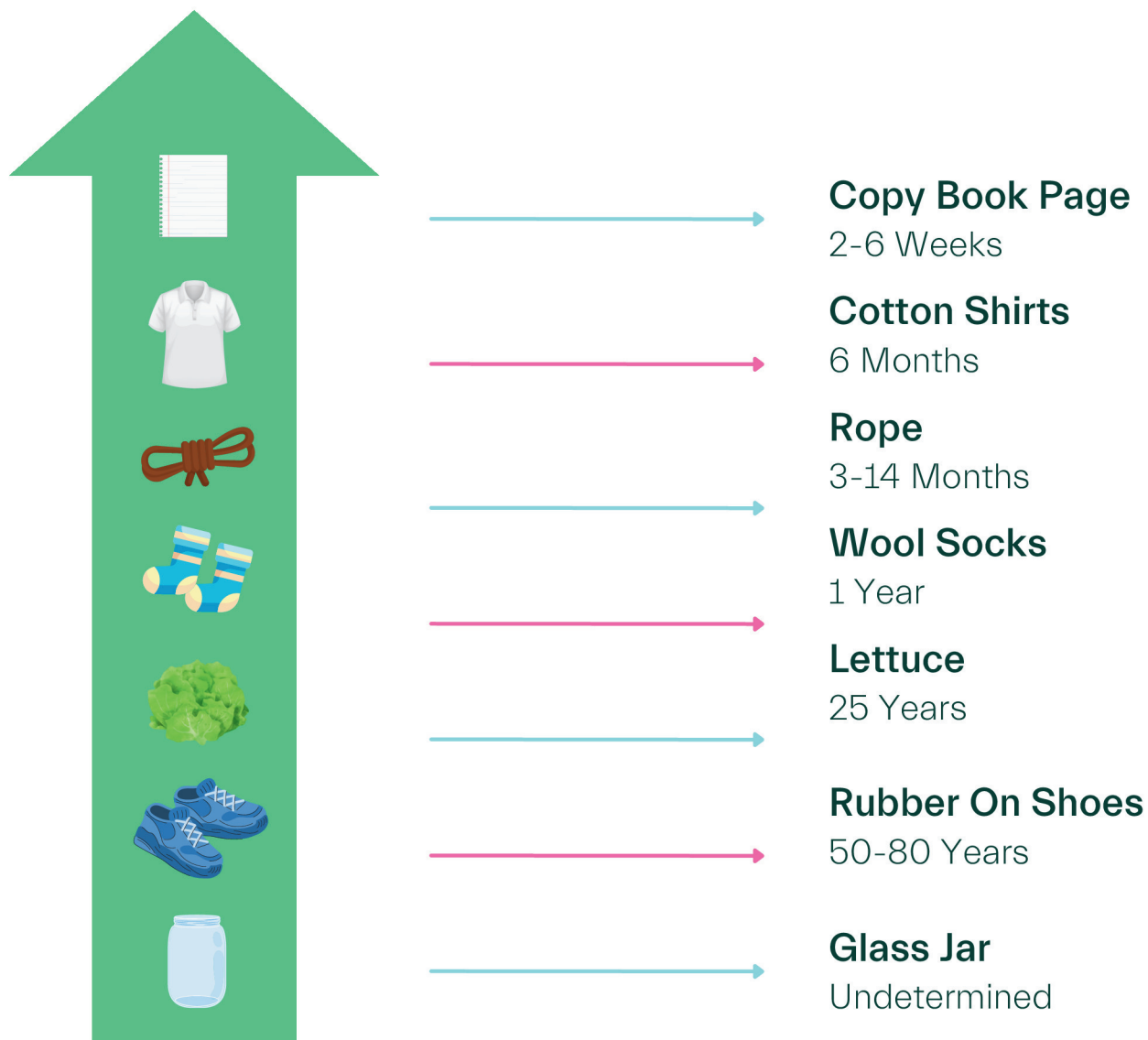


## Organic Waste



# Decomposing Chart

Pop quiz. Hands up who can guess how long it will take these items to decompose?



# School Waste Audit

Class activity! Identify the amount of waste generated and discarded by your school. By identifying areas where waste can be reduced, reused, or recycled, you can minimise the environmental impact of your school's waste stream.

School name ..... Date .....

People involved in audit .....

Where did the waste come from: Classroom  Staff Room  Office

Recyclables	Weight	Volume	% Weight (of total)	% Volume (of total)
Books, Mixed Paper, Newspapers, Magazines, Cardboard				
Washed Food Cans (Aluminum & Tin)				
Wasted Tetra-Pak Milk & Juice Cartons				
Wasted Plastic Bottles (Mineral/Milk Juice)				

Organics	Weight	Volume	% Weight (of total)	% Volume (of total)
Food Waste, Tea Bags, Fruit & Veg.				
Paper (Napkins, Paper Towels Contaminated)				
Food Soiled Cardboard or Paper (No Coated Paper)				

General Waste	Weight	Volume	% Weight (of total)	% Volume (of total)
Plastic (Bags, Wrappers, Straws, etc.), Aluminum Foil, Crip Bags, Sweets Wrappers				
Other Miscellaneous items list				

Total	Weight	Volume	% Weight (of total)	% Volume (of total)

Remember to use gloves.

For easy sorting, dump waste bags on a plastic cover and sort into buckets before weighing them.

After sorting, recycle the items that can be recycled!



# Quiz Time!

Have fun with your class while they learn with our educational quiz.

## Round One

1. What does it mean to recycle?

- A. Throwing things in the bin
- B. Reusing materials to make new products**
- C. Burying waste in the ground

2. Which of the following items can usually be recycled?

- A. Plastic bottles**
- B. Paint Cans
- C. Medical Waste

3. What colour is Rex the recycling bin?

- A. Pink
- B. Blue**
- C. Red

4. Which materials take the longest to decompose if not recycled?

- A. Glass**
- B. Paper
- C. Banana peel

5. What should you do with old batteries?

- A. Just throw them in the waste bin
- B. Throw them in a blue battery recycling container found in supermarkets**
- C. Throw them outside where no one can see them

## Round Two

1. Which of the following is NOT a way to reduce waste?

- A. Using reusable shopping bags
- B. Buying items with lots of packaging**
- C. Composting food scraps

2. What does the greenhouse effect do?

- A. Makes plants green
- B. Makes people want to build greenhouses
- C. Produces extreme weather conditions, like storms & hot weather**

3. How can you use less water?

- A. There's no shortage of water where I live. I can use as much as I like
- B. By taking a shower rather than a bath**
- C. Taking ice cubes out of the freezer & melting them

4. Why is it important to sort our waste correctly?

- A. To make waste smell less
- B. To ensure recyclables are properly processed**
- C. To keep animals away from waste

5. Which of these can be composted?

- A. Plastic cups
- B. Eggshells**
- C. Aluminum foil

## Round Three

1. What does the term "biodegradable" mean?

- A. Can be recycled into something new
- B. Can be eaten by animals
- C. Can break down naturally over time**

2. What bin does a tea bag go into?

- A. General waste bin
- B. Organic bin**
- C. Recycling bin

3. Where should you put chewing gum when your finished with it?

- A. General waste bin**
- B. Recycling bin
- C. Organic bin

4. What can we do with old clothes that no longer fit?

- A. Throw them in the bin
- B. Donate or recycle them**
- C. Bury them in the garden

5. Which of these should NOT be put in the recycling bin?

- A. Cardboard boxes
- B. Empty aluminium cans
- C. Old batteries**



# Game Time!

Print and play our fun and educational classroom games!

## Word Search

R	C	T	U	C	E	N	L	C	R	M	B
C	R	I	S	P	P	A	C	K	E	T	A
L	U	N	S	M	P	C	S	T	P	E	N
I	S	F	E	C	W	N	N	G	A	A	A
N	T	O	I	M	A	I	D	W	P	B	N
G	S	I	R	A	N	T	C	I	V	A	A
F	S	L	E	R	R	R	C	P	F	G	P
I	T	T	T	B	S	U	S	E	Y	S	E
L	O	W	T	O	T	U	D	S	R	S	E
M	D	E	A	I	S	S	A	L	G	A	L
K	N	H	B	R	S	P	I	K	S	L	L
A	P	P	L	E	C	O	R	E	E	G	Y







- CRISP PACKET
- BANANA PEEL
- PAPER
- APPLE CORE

- CLING FILM
- TIN FOIL
- CRUSTS
- WIPES

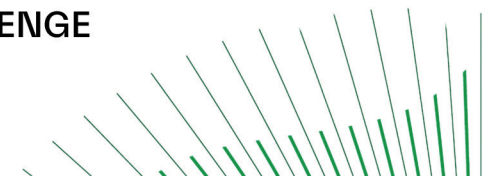
- BATTERIES
- TEA BAG
- TIN CAN
- GLASS

Circle the recyclables in blue, organics in brown, waste in green and anything else in red.

## Dice Challenge

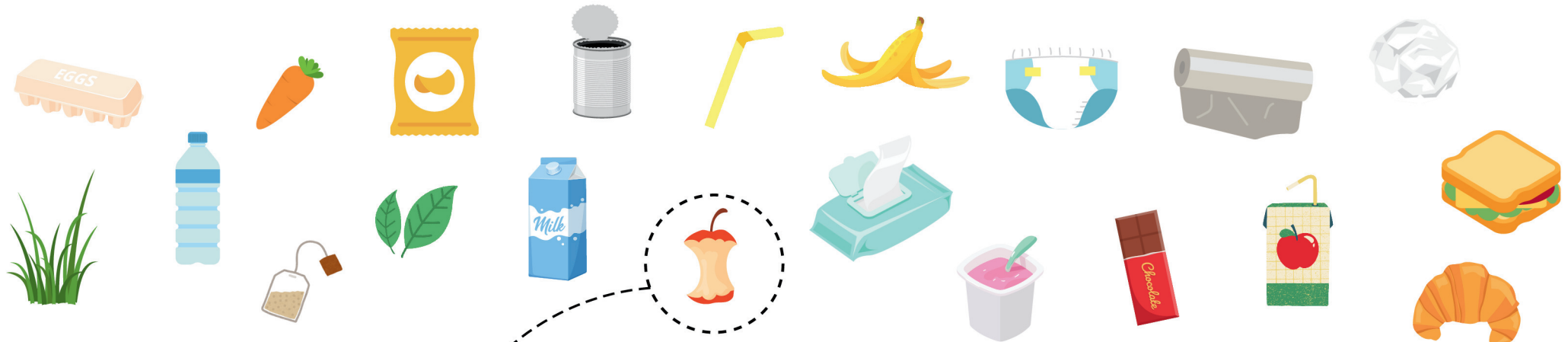
	1st time landing on this number	2nd time landing on this number	3rd time landing on this number
	Which bin does chewing gum go into?	What is something you can make out of a wooden broom?	What bin does an empty milk carton go in?
	Write down 2 things from your bedroom that go in the recycling bin.	Name 2 things from your lunch box that can go in the compost bin.	List 2 things that go in the glass bin.
	Name 3 types of bins.	Can you put black bin bags in a compost bin?	Name 3 things found outside that can go in the compost bin.
	List 4 things that go in the compost bin.	List 4 things that go in the recycling bin	Which bin do orange skins go into?
	List 5 things that go in the recycling bin.	Draw a bin person.	List 5 pieces of rubbish and the bin they go in.
	With the person beside you list 10 things that go in the general waste bin.	Can you put batteries in the general waste bin?	Draw a compost bin with 3 pieces of compost waste in it.

**THROW A DICE 10 TIMES TO SEE  
YOUR CHALLENGE**



# Matching Game

Match the waste to the bin which it goes into.



Rex



Compo



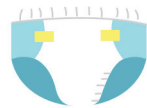
Wendy





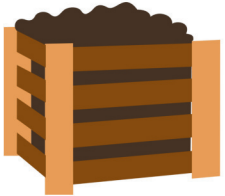
# Contamination Game

Circle the waste that would contaminate Rex the Recycling Bin.



# School Recycling Tips

Please do your part at school and at home with our useful tips and tricks.



Encourage composting of food waste in the classroom and garden waste from school grounds.



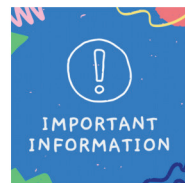
Organise book and uniform swaps or sales to extend the life of these items, whilst helping parents save money too.



Fix it instead of binning it: If something breaks, like a pencil case or a lunchbox, try fixing it instead of replacing it straight away.



Appoint students as recycling monitors to check bins and ensure proper sorting. Remember to always wear gloves.



Use posters and signage around the school to remind students what materials can be recycled and where bins are loc. Find our poster attached.



If your school is removing old computers or tablets, ensure they are taken to a WEEE recycling centre.



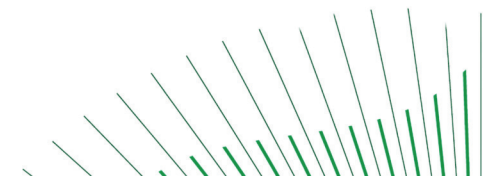
Send an informative newsletters home, educating parents on what's being done at school and how they can reinforce those habits at home.



Recognise and reward classes or students who excel in recycling, perhaps with eco-friendly prizes.



Collect waste and create something useful or beautiful with it and enter our Primary Schools Upcycling Competition.



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**S C h O O L S**

# Upcycling Competition!

It's back! Bord na Móna Recycling are now inviting entries to the 2024/2025 Primary Schools Upcycling Competition!

## What does it involve?

Schools and students must repurpose discarded materials into innovative, functional and inspiring creations. Suggested categories include; Fashion & Accessories, Functional Tools or Gadgets, Artistic Creations, Home Décor, Solving Environmental Problems and School or Community Enhancements.

Over €5000 in prize funds will be awarded across 3 age categories, with the winning class also receiving a school tour.

## Eligibility

- The competition is open to students from primary and special schools in the Republic of Ireland.
- Entries can be made individually, in teams, or as a class.
- Participants must use discarded items or materials that are typically considered as waste.



## Categories

- Junior, Senior Infants & First Class
- 2nd, 3rd & 4th Class
- 5th & 6th Class

## To Enter

Submit your entry form and pictures at:  
[www.bnmrecycling.ie/schools](http://www.bnmrecycling.ie/schools)

For more details or information email  
[marketing@bnm.ie](mailto:marketing@bnm.ie)

Closing date: 5PM on Friday April 11th, 2025



# Last Years Finalists

## Bug Hotel & Garden - St Isidores N.S. Tipperary

1st and 2nd class students transformed their outdoor area into a creative outdoor learning space by planting vegetables in halved oil tanks which were donated, painting old tractor tires for use as benches and flower beds, and creating a bug hotel using old pots, bricks, twigs & bamboo.



## Bath Seat - The Downs N.S. Westmeath

This old iron bath was used by 5th & 6th class students who repurposed it into a stylish upcycled couch. The students used offcuts to make the cushions, which were stuffed with foam from old cushions. The couch, supported by legs made from old pallets, is now a cherished seat in the school.

## Faillte Romhat Sign - Moneystown N.S. Wicklow

Students from two years collaborated to craft a welcome sign. They collected ice cream spoons, bottle caps, wooden letters, pegs, toy car wheels, buttons, jigsaw pieces, and keys and glued them onto letters cut from cereal boxes and added paint, resulting in a vibrant and welcoming display.



## Bike & Flowers - St Oliver Plunketts N.S. Meath

This colourful welcome display was constructed by two students, one in 4th and the other in 6th class. They spray-painted an old bicycle, repurposed old baskets and a helmet, and planted beautiful flowers in them. This vibrant display now greets everyone at the school reception.

## Bottle Tops Sign - Boris N.S. Carlow

Thirty 5th class students collaborated to create a vibrant bottle caps sign representing their diverse interests and activities at school. The result is a meticulously crafted masterpiece, rich in detail and colour, which will beautify the school, symbolising unity and artistic expression.



## School Mosaic - Scoil Mhuire, Donegal

All students from the school combined to create mosaics from leftover wall tiles. Old broken tiles were repurposed to prevent them from being sent to landfill. Students took turns cutting and glueing the tiles onto pre-drawn templates. The remaining tiles were donated to a local Art Farm.

## School Crest Sign - Kilmyshall N.S. Wexford

This 6th class project shows the school's crest in a sustainable landscape. Collecting and utilizing old materials such as clothes, keys, and egg cartons, this project exemplified teamwork and creativity and now proudly welcomes everyone to their school at the school's entrance.



## Brennans/Tayto Jacket & Dress - Broombridge Educate Together N.S. Dublin

In an inspiring demonstration of creativity and resourcefulness, six students from the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th classes, all members of their school's Fashion Design Club, have designed and crafted a stunning outfit. Embracing the challenge to exceed our standard guidelines, these talented students chose to use exclusively "Irish Waste" materials. The dress fashioned from Tayto crisp packets, and the accompanying jacket, made from Brennan's bread wrappers, together symbolize an Irish crisp sandwich. Their innovative designs were later showcased in a mini fashion shoot which took place in their school.

## Sensory Board & Song - St Mary's P.S. Westmeath

A group of 1st and 6th class students created a sensory board and a song to enhance fine motor skills and sensory experiences. They repurposed soap dispensers, coins, chair legs, old toys, and utensils. This project underscores the importance of inclusivity and creativity in learning environments.



# Last Years Winner

Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh, Limerick, as the inaugural winner of the Primary Schools Upcycling Competition for their creative, resourceful and impactful entry which sought to enhance and protect their school environment from the potential negative impacts of playground activities. The pupils demonstrated excellent lateral thinking by upcycling materials, rendering them with informative art-work and ultimately, constructing & delivering a durable solution to a real-world problem.

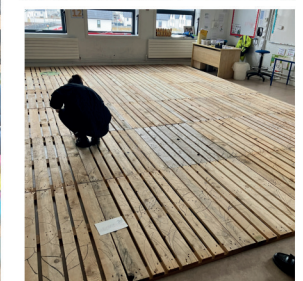
## The Problem

Prior to entry into Comórtas Uaschúrsála do Scoileanna, the Green School Committee and Student Council of Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh, comprised of 32 students from 2nd to 6th class, with the help of a local social enterprise group, sowed 300 native trees around their playground to encouraged their pupils to be active in a biodiversity project.

In a short space of time, a number of trees were broken by stray footballs. Upon hearing of Bord na Móna's 'Comórtas Uaschúrsála do Scoileanna', the Principal challenged the Student Council (Comhairle na nDaltaí) and Green Schools Committee (Coiste Glas) to come up with a solution to the problem using only recycled materials.

## The Solution

To address this, 30 old pallets were sourced locally and students from the nearby Limerick School of Art and Design illustrated the pallets with forest wildlife, birds, and native trees. The Student Council and Green Schools Committee then painted the fencing which took up an entire classroom floor. It was lastly mounted and secured in front of the 'Coill Bheag' to protect their growing trees. This initiative not only solved their problem but also showcased their commitment to sustainability.



# Questions To Inspire

Ask your students these simple questions to get them thinking about ideas for their entry.

How can you turn waste into something fun, like a toy, game, or decoration?

Can you design something that helps people become more eco-friendly in their everyday lives?

Is there a way to upcycle something into a tool or gadget that solves a common problem?

How can you use materials that might end up in the ocean or landfills and give them a second life?

What's something you would love to have but don't that you could create using recycled items?



Can you and your friends combine items you each have to make a bigger or better project?

Are there any problems in school/at home that could be solved by upcycling?

For example, Is there a blank wall in your school that could be decorated with an upcycled mural?

How could you use old clothes, fabrics, or bags, or other items to make something new and cool?

Is there a waste at school or at home that you could turn into something useful

For example, are there old wooden pallets that you could make a fence from?

What art could you make from scraps, like bottle caps, paper rolls, or old toys?