



## What's going on this week?

It is estimated that people in Britain are sending over 1.6 billion non-biodegradable face masks to landfill every single month, according to research conducted by shopping comparison site, finder.com. To reduce this, a new scheme has been introduced in Brighton and Hove to recycle face masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE). Special bins have been installed to reduce the amount of PPE litter, which is used to make more bins and other plastic items.

### Main question:

#### Should disposable face masks be banned?

##### Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster. Talk about our own experiences of seeing masks. What different types have we seen people wearing e.g. disposable, cloth? Have you seen any that have been littered or left for others to dispose of? Talk about how you feel seeing them discarded.
- Some environmentalists are calling for single use face masks to be banned completely, and for reusable cloth masks to be used in their place. What do you think of this idea? Discuss the pros and cons of single use versus cloth face masks.
- Look at the information found on the assembly resource. Are you surprised by the number of disposable masks that have been used over the course of the pandemic?
- Do you know if there is anywhere close to you that recycles face masks? Do you think enough people know that it is possible to recycle face masks? Can you think of any ways to make people more aware that it is possible?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows how old PPE can be made into new PPE. Share your thoughts on the idea. Do you think this approach should be used with other items that we only use once?

### Reflection

Over the course of the pandemic, masks have been a very useful tool in helping to reduce the spread of the virus. It's important that we consider the environment when we think about the type of mask we use and how it is disposed of.



## KS1 Focus

### Question:

What are the different ways that we can help protect each other to stay healthy?

#### Listen, think, share

- Write the word 'healthy' on the board. What do you think it means to be healthy? Explain that being healthy is keeping your mind and body in a good state.
- Discuss some of the ways we keep healthy e.g. having a good diet, exercise, sleep, washing, brushing our teeth, making time to relax etc.
- Explain that sometimes, even though we take good care of our health, we might become ill. Have you ever been ill e.g. a cold, a headache, a sick bug? How did you feel? Did you have time off school or did you still go?
- Have you ever found everyone in your family or class caught the same cold or sick bug? Explain that this is because some illnesses can be spread but there are things we can do to reduce that and help protect one another from becoming poorly.
- Look at resource 1, which shares some of the different ways we can protect each other so we can stay healthy. Can you think of any other examples? Which of these things do you already do?
- Do you think the type of illness might make a difference as to how we choose to protect others? E.g. we might stay at home with a sick bug to avoid spreading it but with a cold, we might still go to school but take care to wash our hands, cough and sneeze into a tissue etc.

### Reflection

There are many different illnesses, some are more serious than others and can affect us all in different ways. We can help to protect each other and reduce the spread of illness.



## KS2 Focus

### Question:

What are the main differences between cloth face masks and disposable face masks?

#### Listen, think, share

- Think about face masks. Have you worn one before? Do any of the adults in your home wear them? What are the face masks that you or they wear like?
- Explain that some face masks are disposable, whereas others are cloth. Look at resource 2, which shares some more information about each. What are the differences between the cloth and disposable masks? Are there any similarities?
- Disposable masks are designed to be thrown away after they have been used once. Environmental groups have raised concerns about these single use, plastic face masks and the effect they are having on the environment. They cannot be put into household recycling so many end up in landfill. How do you feel about this?
- Explain that all disposable surgical masks must conform to certain minimum filtration standards, whereas reusable cloth ones do not. Medical settings often require that people wear disposable face masks and not their own cloth mask. Why do you think this is?
- Discuss the pros and cons of both cloth and disposable face masks. Consider design, cost, ease of use. Which do you think you would prefer to wear?

### Reflection

There are many differences between cloth and disposable masks but they are both designed to protect others and reduce the risk of transmission.

## KS2 Follow-up Ideas

**Option 1:** Ask the children to raise awareness of being able to recycle disposable face masks.

- How might you raise awareness? E.g. a poster in your local community, a video on your school website or social media, a letter to school families.
- What information will you include? E.g. the location of your nearest recycling point, facts/statistics about disposable face masks (see assembly resource).
- How will you make sure people read/see your poster/video/letter?

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**Option 2:** Show the children a range of different cloth face masks and consider how they have been made. Look at some face mask templates and consider the processes involved in creating one e.g. cutting, sewing. Ask the children to design their own cloth face mask. Think about:

- What material will you use?
- What size does the mask need to be?
- How will you attach the mask to your face?
- What pattern, colour or design will your face mask be?
- What equipment do you need?

Provide the children with a range of different materials and perhaps a template for them to create their own face mask.

## KS1 Follow-up Ideas

**Option 1:** Recap some of the information about the different ways we can protect each other so that we stay healthy.

- What could we do at school to help keep each other healthy? E.g. wash our hands, sneeze and cough into a tissue.

Ask the children to select one of the ways we can protect each other and design a poster to display around the classroom to help remind us. Include:

- A picture
- The message e.g. remember to wash your hands
- Eye-catching colours to encourage people to look at your poster

Once they are complete, laminate them and position them strategically around your classroom and school (the back of toilet doors is a great place for reminders of hand washing!).

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**Option 2:** Ask the children to think about what happens when they are poorly.

- How do you feel?
- What do you need to do to make yourself feel better?

Explain that sometimes we just need to rest or take it easy and we get better but other times we might need some help.

- Who might be able to help us when we are feeling poorly e.g. our teacher, an adult at home, a doctor, a nurse?
- Have you ever been to the hospital or the doctors? Were you given medicine to help you feel better?

If possible, set up a doctors/nurses role-play area. Include face masks!

## This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-57687261](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-57687261)

## This Week's Useful Videos

Making old PPE into new PPE

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-58467411](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-58467411)

## This Week's Virtual Assembly

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

## This Week's Useful Vocabulary

**Discarded** – to get rid of something because it is no longer useful or wanted.

Talk about how you feel seeing them **discarded**.

**Disposable** – something that is designed to be thrown away once it has been used.

What different types have we seen people wearing e.g. **disposable**, cloth?

**Landfill** – a method of getting rid of rubbish by burying it.

It is estimated that people in Britain are sending over 1.6 billion non-biodegradable face masks to **landfill**.

**Non-biodegradable** – a substance that does not break down or decay over time.

It is estimated that people in Britain are sending over 1.6 billion **non-biodegradable** face masks to landfill.

**Pandemic** – the occurrence of a disease that affects many people over a wide area.

Are you surprised by the number of disposable masks that have been used over the course of the **pandemic**?

**Scheme** – a plan, design or program of action to be followed.

To reduce this, a new **scheme** has been introduced in Brighton and Hove.