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Eco Fridge – Tackling Food Waste

Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite growing public awareness of the issue, food waste is still on the rise in the UK; seven million tonnes of food was wasted last year, with households throwing away a staggering total of £13 billion worth of food, and the hospitality and food service sector wasting £3 billion.

Here at Bridgewater we want to do our part in reducing food waste and, at the same time, improving community links.

Our school catering team produces good quality meals for children and staff but there are often leftovers. We have completed a food waste prevention project - Eat Smart - in partnership with Bind, and one of the points in our action plan to reduce the school's food waste is to set up an Eco Fridge - this will be managed by the school and catering staff to ensure food safety.

While redistribution networks exist for large retailers, until now, there have been limited options for schools and businesses to get their surplus perishable food to those who can put it to good use, safely and within the 'use-by' date.

Some of the most commonly wasted food from schools includes fresh fruit and vegetables, breakfast club items and unserved meals. The Eco Fridge will be located in our Early Years dining hall and all families will be able to access the food free of charge from 3pm from either the Early Years side past the sand and water area or the top yard area via the black gate at the bottom of the steps. There will be notices up showing the way.

Our school is a Pioneer School for Bind's Eco Fridge project. The fridge will be in place for the second part of the summer term, during which time we will gather data and feedback and hope to roll the project out next academic year.



Important information when using the Eco Fridge:

- Once food is taken from the Eco Fridge it is the responsibility of the recipient to follow the advice provided on the label
- Store the food in a fridge at home and use before the use-by date
- When reheating the food, make sure it is heated until it reaches a temperature of 70.c for 2 minutes (steaming hot through). Food should only be reheated once.

We will be starting our Eco fridge on **Tuesday June 3rd**. We will send out Dojo messages each day after 1pm stating if we have food that day to give out and how much food there will be. The doors will then be open from **3pm**. Please help us to make use of the leftover food so we can minimise the food waste.

Warmest Regards

Mrs Robson

(Executive Headteacher)

