

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

I am writing to advise you that from September we will not be permitting large water bottles, 'Chilli' metal water bottles or Air Up water bottles in school. I appreciate that many children have been given these as a gift recently or have saved up their own pocket money to purchase one. However, at £35 per bottle (in some cases) it's becoming an increasing problem in the classroom and a distraction from children's learning. It is also putting undue pressure on families to 'keep up' with the growing trend. I have counted £700 worth of water bottles in one year group alone.

The intention behind having a water bottle is for children to be hydrated throughout the day and therefore allowing their brains to be fully hydrated too. The idea of tricking the brain that it is drinking a scented flavoured water is a fun gimmick, but just like we don't allow toys being brought into school, we will not be allowing these from September. All water bottles must be transparent so teachers can encourage and monitor the amount children are drinking. Transparent water bottles are readily available for under £5 in supermarkets or you may wish to purchase a school water bottle for £1.50 from the school office.

I am very much an advocate of encouraging children to drink water throughout the day, but I don't want any child to feel they have to pay £35 to do so. I want to poverty proof this growing trend and ensure a sensible approach that is accessible for all. If anyone is unable to provide a water bottle, please do let me know and I will happily support you with this.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Walker
Headteacher

