

BIG NEWS

FANTASTIC PLASTIC NEWS!

PLASTIC straws, drink stirrers and plastic cotton buds are now banned in England. Red noses will also be plastic-free!

It's estimated that we use more than five billion plastic straws, 316 million plastic stirrers and almost two billion plastic cotton buds in England each year.

All are single-use plastics – items that are used once, then thrown away. Many find their way into the oceans, endangering marine life.

Since 1st October, shops and cafes in England can no longer sell or give out these items. They were banned in Scotland last year.

Comic Relief will also be going plastic-free for next year's Red Nose Day. Its new red noses will be made from a plant fibre called bagasse, instead of plastic. Bagasse comes from the sugar cane plant. It is left over when the canes are crushed up to extract the sugar.

The charity was persuaded to switch to a natural material by children at Furlanesend Community Primary School, in Cornwall.

The school even wrote to Sir David Attenborough about their red nose worries. He encouraged them to get in touch with Comic Relief to ask for change!

The charity said they had been thinking about the problem, but that the “passionate kids definitely made a difference”.

Children at the school were given an exclusive first look at the brand new noses, to say thank you.



Questions on: 'Fantastic plastic news!'

1) Which three plastic items have been banned in England?

1.
2.
3.

2) Can you explain what single-use plastic is?

3) What is true about the rules in Scotland?

- Scotland plans to ban these plastic items next year.
- These items have already been banned in Scotland.
- Scotland and England banned the items on 1st October.

4) Comic Relief is the charity that organises Red Nose Day. Why has news from Comic Relief been put together with the news about the straw ban?

5) a) What encouraged the charity to stop using plastic?

b) What encouraged the children to write to the charity?

6) Complete the definition of bagasse using the words below.

Bagasse – the plant _____ that remains after _____ has been made from the _____ plant.

Choose from: ● **sugar cane** ● **fibre** ● **sugar**

7) How were the Cornish children thanked for taking action?

8) Do you think it would be right to call a red nose a 'single-use plastic', or not? Explain your opinion.