



### Goodbye 2020! Hello 2021!

As they say, you only live once (YOLO) and this means that with every new year comes a new you. The past year has been tough on all of us and we're ready to make the best out of this one! Here in the Eko-skola committee we believe that all voices should be heard, and so, for the new year, we're asking YOU to help us reach new heights!



We're hosting a competition to see the eco-friendliest New Year's Resolution for us to work on. To enter this competition, you only need a minute or two and it's super easy!

- You can come up with a MAXIMUM of three resolutions
- You can choose your own resolution or even choose one as a class!

Then, just send your resolutions to [s.vassallo@stjosephsliema.edu.mt](mailto:s.vassallo@stjosephsliema.edu.mt) by the 12<sup>th</sup> of February for a chance to win a bamboo travel cup.

Here at Eko-Skola we wish you all a wonderful new year and good luck!

*Maegan Friggieri*

*Form 4A*



**Earth is what we all have  
in common!**

*Kristina Kay Grech Form 1A*



**Kyra Gauci Form 3 Alpha**

### Covid-19 and Aquatic Creatures

It is truly unfortunate that we do not realise how badly our animals are also being affected by this virus. We all miss the days when we did not have to wear a mask and suffer the consequences of not abiding by the measures given to the public. What we do not think about is the fact that our single-use plastics, such as disposable facemasks, packaging of toilet rolls, etc., have all increased significantly! Although it is tough to avoid such uses of plastic in our current situation, there are still a few ways to avoid excess use of it in order to avoid harming our environment more than we are aware of. Our sea creatures, and all aquatic animals, fall victim to our negligence. We need to be aware of what and how much waste we are producing, as this may lead to even more terrible consequences.

Let us all try our best to help our environment and not abandon it during such a tough time. By doing so, we can all come out of this stronger and more united, together with our animals.

*Alexandra Vassallo Form 3 Beta*

**Nature is a miracle we  
depend on!**

*Elisa Lombardi Form 1Alpha*

**It's only one straw, said  
one million people!**

*Ella Greenaway Form 1A*

## Initiatives made possible through the YRE Campaign

### Initiative 1

Students are asked to draw a design that could be easily printed on a reusable mask. The masks will then be ordered and bought using funds made available through the YRE Campaign.

## DISPOSABLE MASKS



Say no to disposable masks and use reusable ones!

Disposable masks can only be use once before they have to be thrown away  
Disposable masks cannot be recycled and more often than not they are not disposed of properly.

When this happens masks end up in the environment around us such as pavements, beaches and in the sea.

These masks can end up hurting animals.

When masks end up in the sea they end up breaking down into micro-plastic that fish and marine life eat by accident. And birds get tangled up in the earloops

It is estimated that 75% of the waste generated during the COVID-19 pandemic will end up in landfills.

And it is said that more than 1,000 tonnes of extra hazardous waste such as gloves and masks is being produced in Indonesia everyday.

Disposable masks are made of a material called propylene which takes about 500 years to decompose

This means that the environment will suffer he effects of COVID-19 long after the pandemic is over

Reusable masks are a better option because they can be washed and reused over and over again.

You can also make your own masks and personalize them with your favorite pattern, colour and fabric.

We should also leave the safer masks for frontline workers because they are the ones who need them the most

Sources: Drawing- Chloe Merlevede  
Information- Eko Skola Team

Information Sources - PETA, United Nations, ABC online news and the Online Clothing Sudty

**Marija Cuschieri Form 2 Alpha**

I feel angry when I see waste,  
when I see people throwing away  
things we can still use.

*Michelle Chase Pace Form 1 Alpha*



## Initiative 2

Last scholastic year, mesh bags were bought using funds provided by YRE. These mesh bags, which have a multitude of uses, are environmentally friendly and are being sold within our school community.

### Prices

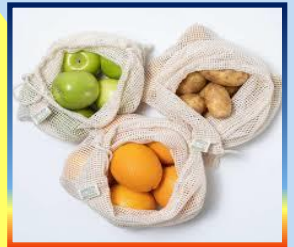
1 small bag - €1

1 medium bag - €1.50

1 large bag - €2

A pack containing 1 small, 1 medium and 1 large bags - €4

The selling of mesh bags is being co-ordinated by Mr Julian and Ms Ilona together with the Form 5 EkoSkola representatives.



The St. Joseph School EkoSkola committee would like to express its gratitude to the YRE Campaign, specifically Ms Audrey Gauci, for their commitment towards a better environment and for supporting us to be able to undertake such initiatives.

