



## ***Press Release***

### **Puppets Help Launch Schools Recycling Project**

Children at four primary schools in South Cambridgeshire will be collecting and weighing the waste they produce as part of a project to teach them about recycling. Pupils at Bar Hill Primary School, Milton Primary School, Icknield School, Sawston and Monkfield Park Primary School, Cambourne are taking part in the Happy Bin scheme, a six week project involving 19 schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which helps schools develop a strategy to reduce the amount they throw away and move towards zero waste.

The project, which is a joint initiative between Local Authorities in the RECAP (Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) partnership and Waterbeach based waste management company Donarbon Ltd, starts with a professional puppetry show by Vagabondi Puppets, which is visiting all schools between 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October. This is followed up with six weeks of classroom activities as part of the science, literacy, maths, IT and creative arts curriculum. Children will look at what waste is, the problems it causes, why it is important to reduce the amount we throw away and how we can all work together to cut the amount of waste that we produce.

As part of the project work, each week children collect and weigh the waste produced at their school and enter the results on the Happy Bin website. Both the total amount of waste produced by each school and the amount per pupil are displayed on the site, and the children can compare how they are doing with other schools who are taking part in the project.

As a follow up to taking part in the Happy Bin Project, all the schools will receive a visit from the Schools Recycling Bus next year.



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Julian Ayres, Recycling Support Officer for South Cambridgeshire District Council said, "It is important that we get the message across as early as possible that we all have a role to play in reducing and recycling our waste, and the Happy Bin Project is a fun way of doing this. It was obvious that the pupils at Bar Hill Primary School really enjoyed the puppet show, and hopefully they will also take the message home to their parents. We will be using what we have learnt from this project to encourage our residents to do what our school children have done, and reduce their waste."

Last year 10 schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough took part in the first Happy Bin Project , and on average reduced their total amount of waste by nearly 20%. The very best school more than halved the amount of waste it produced.

**ENDS**

### Notes to the editor

1. For more information contact Mark Shelton, Waste Promotions Manager, Donarbon Ltd, tel. 01223 204836 or e-mail [markshelton@donarbon.com](mailto:markshelton@donarbon.com) .
2. The attached picture shows pupils from Barhill Primary School's Eco-Council, with the puppets and puppeteers from Vagabondi Puppets and, from L to R at rear, class teacher Clare Meyer, Mark Shelton and Karen Brenchley, both from Donarbon Ltd.
3. For more information about the Happy Bin Project, schools participating this year and the results from the schools that took part last year visit <http://happybin.org.uk/>



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