



Cavalry Primary School

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Cavalry Uniform Exchange

Where it all began

At the end of the summer term 2019, we were horrified that we had collected nine bin bags of lost property in the summer term alone! This was sent to our local charity shops... but it got us thinking! This uniform was bought by you, the parents and carers of Cavalry. To replace it, you would have to spend yet more money. We also believe it is ludicrous to spend a fortune on brand new school uniforms, only for your children to outgrow them within a few months! We then heard of a very successful uniform exchange at a school in West Yorkshire where one parent said "It's great, I haven't had to buy a jumper for my three children for three years, and I haven't put anything in to landfill either!" Not only does making use of second hand clothing have a fantastic impact on your pocket and on strengthening the community, but it also plays an essential role in sustaining our precious environment and protecting our natural resources. A win-win situation for everyone!

In a world where our children are more environmentally aware, they increasingly value the importance of 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'. We are asking you to support your child in their bid to help the planet. Our PTFA and recently formed Eco Council have already been promoting the recycling of crisp packets and other bits through Terracycle and they are supporting the recycling of uniforms in school too.

How it is collected.

When last year's uniform creeps up to the elbows and fails to hide the socks dividing shoes and trousers, it's time to go up a size. Depending on growth spurts, this experience may occur more than once in a school year. The result is all too many uniforms being produced, landfilled and slowly decomposing for years! We are asking you to consider this alternative to dispose of your under-sized clothes in the greenest way possible.

At any time, we will gratefully receive old uniform in good condition. We will add this to our uniform stock at school. Each half term we will collect in the lost property, hand back anything that has a name on and then sort the rest. Good quality items will be washed and added to our uniform stock and items no longer looking smart will be sent to a clothing recycle bank to avoid going to landfill. Making sure you name items before your child wears them will also help to reduce the amount of lost property that we have in the first place.

So, what else can be reused?

Music books can be handed down or reused, as can recorders no longer needed. Wellies, especially for our younger pupils who need these in Nursery or Reception, can be donated to our uniform swap as they are outgrown so quickly. Waterproof clothing is the same! PE kit, including good quality trainers and school shoes with a good bit of life left in them can all be donated too. And what about that fabulous coat you bought only a few weeks ago?... and then they grew!

How can you get new uniform?

Firstly, we are asking everyone to consider whether they need to buy brand new! Throughout the year, on a regular basis, we will hold the Uniform exchange in school. This is the perfect opportunity for you to come and see what we have and the quality! You can take as much as you need for your child, FREE OF CHARGE! If you are desperate for anything at any other time during the term please ask and we will try to find what you need for you.

Our next Uniform Exchange is on **Wednesday, 4th March**. During the 'Books after Dark' event, the boxes will be in the entrance hall from 5-7pm for you to help yourself to bits you need or please do ask a member of our staff or PTFA for anything you require. Look out for upcoming dates during the summer term too, these will be a perfect opportunity to kit out your child for September and to donate items they have grown out of, clearing a space at home for those new items!

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Wilson