



# St Joseph's School

Millar Street, Waroona, Western Australia

PO Box 129, Waroona WA 6215

**Telephone: (08) 9782 6500**

Email: [admin@stjoeswaroona.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@stjoeswaroona.wa.edu.au)

Web Site: [www.stjoeswaroona.wa.edu.au](http://www.stjoeswaroona.wa.edu.au)

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Dear Parents

Over the last few months we have noticed a large amount of food waste and packaging waste going into our school bins and we think it is time that we work together as a community to reduce the amount of waste in our bins.

Earlier in the year all students were involved in lessons related to waste disposal and recycling. We would like to follow this up with a healthy zero waste lunch day on Wednesday June 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Why should we have a healthy zero waste lunch?**

By bringing less waste into schools we can minimise litter, reduce waste going to landfill, save money and develop healthy eating habits. Producing excessive amounts of waste is a major problem in Australia, with Australia being the second highest producer of waste per person when compared to other western countries.

Australians produce 41 million tonnes of waste each year. This amount of waste would fill a line of garbage trucks from Perth to London. Recent statistics also reveal that WA produces significantly more waste than the rest of Australia and diverts the smallest amount of waste from landfill (Hyder Consulting, 2008). These statistics highlight the need for an immediate reduction in our waste production.

The healthy zero waste lunch day encourages our students and school community to reduce the amount of waste we produce.

A zero waste lunch contains no throwaway packaging and produces no food waste. It also reduces the amount of litter, as there is less waste to become litter. The typical homemade zero waste lunch is packed in a lunch box or bag. The food is put in reuseable containers rather than wrapped in disposable packaging. A drink is in a refillable bottle.

All containers are resealable, so that leftover food and drink can be saved for later. By bringing less waste into schools we can minimise litter, create less waste, save money, and develop healthy eating habits. The intention is to reduce the amount of waste we would normally throw away, and to look for alternative packaging for our food. Although the main goal is to educate the students about the need to reduce waste, parents are the ones who often buy the food and pack the lunches.

Please consider using reusable containers and avoiding disposable packaging on Wednesday June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your support

Mrs Vicki Hodgson  
Science Co-ordinator