

# **Littering is Taking Over the World**

Have you noticed how our lovely Greenfield Park doesn't look quite as green as it used to? Once, it was full of flowers, butterflies, and the sound of birds singing in the trees. Now, when you take a closer look, you can spot crisp packets hiding under benches, bottles bobbing in the pond, and sweet wrappers swirling around like colourful but unwanted leaves. It's as if our park is being taken over by rubbish, a plastic jungle growing where grass and flowers should be!

Here's a worrying fact: the local council says litter in our park has gone up by 70% this year. That means there's almost twice as much rubbish as before! Imagine if someone dumped that much rubbish in your bedroom, you wouldn't be able to move! Sadly, that's what's happening to the animals who live in the park.

The ducks mistake bottle caps for food, hedgehogs get their noses stuck in cans, and foxes get tangled in plastic bags. Even tiny insects are affected because plastic stops plants from growing properly. The whole park is like a big, beautiful jigsaw puzzle, and every piece, from worms to wildflowers, needs to fit together. When litter takes over, some of those pieces go missing. Dr. Sarah Evans, a local scientist, says: "Even a small amount of litter can hurt animals and make it harder for plants to grow. Our parks are like tiny worlds, every creature has an important job to do." Think of the park as a shared living room for everyone, humans, animals, and plants alike. Would you drop rubbish on your living room floor? Of course not! But every time someone tosses a wrapper or leaves a bottle behind, it's like scribbling on the walls of that shared home. The good news is that we can fix it together!

Our school's Eco Team is planning a "Park Pride Day" next month to help clean up Greenfield Park and make it beautiful again. We're inviting everyone, students, parents, teachers, and friends to join us. We'll have gloves, bin bags, recycling bins, and even some tasty snacks and drinks to keep everyone energised. If each person picked up just five pieces of litter, the park would be sparkling clean in no time! Imagine walking through Greenfield Park and seeing no rubbish at all, only green grass, clear water, and happy animals. That's the park we all deserve.

Dr. Evans says, "When we help nature, nature helps us right back." Clean parks mean fresher air, more wildlife, and a happier community. Plus, taking care of the park can be fun! You can make it a game, who can fill their rubbish bag the fastest, or who can find the most unusual piece of litter safely, of course?

So next time you visit the park, take a moment to look around. What do you see as a dumping ground or a garden worth saving? The future of Greenfield Park is in our hands. But together, we can turn our plastic jungle back into a green paradise, one piece of litter at a time.