



**COLUMBAN
MISSIONARIES
BRITAIN**

THE GREAT BIG GREEN SWAP!



**THE
CLIMATE
COALITION**

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK** 

We invite Catholic schools to host an easy to organise, high-impact event where families bring and swap books/clothes/uniform, share Catholic Social Teaching with the wider community whilst at the same time, sending a gentle message to politicians, that action needs to be taken for Our Common Home.

“ Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production, and consumption. ”

Pope Francis

Pope Francis has called us to hear and respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of poor. During a cost of living crisis and when money is tight for many, **THE GREAT BIG GREEN SWAP** will help families to save money by swapping things we no longer need or want for second-hand things from others. At the same time we show that another way is possible, challenging the model of endless extracting, creating, consuming and discarding.

Your event needs to be arranged during the **Climate Coalition's Great Big Green Week** which runs from the **8th - 16th June 2024**. This year's theme is: **'Let's swap together for good.'**

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Let's swap together for good

Let's get started...

First of all, you need to make some decisions: Could pupils be involved in leading this event? What date should it take place and in which venue?

Decide which items will be swapped.


Promote the event with an assembly plus communication to families, your parish and the wider community. Pupils could design the posters and you might wish to consider a poster competition.

Limit the number of things each family can bring and emphasise quality over quantity.

Next, register your event and consider using the education resources from www.greatbiggreenweek.com.

Arrange to collect an initial stock (maybe ask one year group to bring their swaps a day in advance), so swapping can begin straight away at the event.

Set up the swap at your chosen venue. Consider displaying our Pope Francis quote posters (enlarged to A3) and relevant work by pupils.



There needs to be lots of empty table space and your initial stock laid out for people to see. You'll need a table set aside for the **Great Big Letter**.

Prepare a team to collect items for swapping at the venue entrance and give people one token per item in return. These items will be added to the swap.

As people leave they give the team one token for each item they take away with them.

Assign some pupils as journalists, taking photos and interviewing people about what they think of the swap, the **Great Big Letter** and the posters.

Consider getting extra donated items so you can afford to be generous with families in greater need.

Assign some pupils to invite all visitors to sign the **Great Big Letter**.

Be sure to tell the story of the event. Don't forget to include the hashtag [#GreatBigGreenSwap](#).

You can donate the leftover items, for example to a local charity or charity shop.

The Great Big Letter

The Great Big Letter is a letter to MPs or election candidates telling them about our event and why, as a school, we feel it's important to care for creation.

Print multiple copies of the **Great Big Letter** on school headed notepaper on A3. Add extra pages for many signatures!

At your swap, have a table with the **Great Big Letter** and many pens. Your School Council members, eco-team or super-engaging pupils can invite everyone who comes to the event to sign the letter.

Finally, either post or send photos of the letter to politicians. If the general election has been called, use www.whocanivotefor.co.uk or similar to write to all candidates.

If the general election has not yet been called, either write to your MP, using www.theyworkforyou.com or similar, or look at the last election results from your constituency and write to all the main parties who had candidates in your area. Don't forget to include the event hashtag **#GreatBigGreenSwap**.

School address and logo
Date
Great Big Green Week 2024!

Dear

Great Big Green Swap - and now over to you

As a Catholic school, we take seriously Pope Francis's encouragement to hear and respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of poor. This is one of the reasons we're taking part in the Climate Coalition's 'Great Big Green Week', organising a swapping event at school - both saving money and protecting creation!

We ask you to do all you can to look after nature and act on climate change. It is not ok that the UK's wildlife is continuing to decline (from the State of Nature Report 2023) and that the Government's advisers, the Climate Change Committee, have expressed concerns that the UK could miss its future targets. Please help the country do better - for all our futures.

Signed

Suggested text to copy and paste, feel free to edit!

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“

We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental.

Pope Francis

”

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