



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Year 6
Nettlesworth Primary School
Nettlesworth
Chester-le-Street
DH2 3PF

Our Ref: LA08819

18 November 2025

Dear Nettlesworth Primary School Year 6,

Thank you so much for taking time to write to me about recycling. I'm delighted to hear that you have been learning about the importance of looking after our environment and protecting wildlife.

I agree with you all that we need to do more to keep our local area and our oceans cleaner. When plastics aren't recycled, they stay in our environment and can harm to animals. That is why the Government has set an ambitious goal of zero avoidable waste by 2050. This means that when you grow up, we will reuse and recycle nearly everything!

Earlier this year the Government changed the rules so workplaces have to separate their waste so it can be recycled. Your school will be part of this big change, alongside offices, restaurants, cafes, and lots of other places.

We are also working hard to come to an agreement with other countries about the best ways to tackle plastic pollution. Alongside 100 other countries, we signed a call for an international treaty to end plastic pollution. Plastic pollution affects the whole world, so I am pleased the UK is working with other countries to solve this important issue.

But it isn't just politicians like me who have the power to look after our environment. You can help too, by recycling paper and plastic in your classroom, and reminding your family and friends to use the right bins.

Like you, I want to see a future where we keep things in use for longer, and where we recycle more. Thank you again for your letters, which raised really interesting points. Keep up the great work – you are the generation that can make a difference and look after all the people, plants and animals in our environment. I look forward to meeting you when I visit your school in March.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luke'.

Luke Akehurst
Member of Parliament for North Durham