Plastic

Plastic is a man-made material that is extremely versatile. When plastic is made, it is moulded into the shape of the object required. Once the plastic has set, it cannot be changed unless it is exposed to heat in order to make it melt. Plastic can be extremely strong and rigid or light and flexible. Strong plastic can be used to make lunch boxes. The light, thin bags that we use to carry our shopping are also made out of plastic.

PLASTIC IN WATER

Unlike some other materials, plastic is not damaged when it comes into contact with liquids. The liquid stays on the surface of the plastic and can be easily wiped away. This is because plastic is waterproof. Chairs and tables in gardens are often made out of plastic because they can be left outside without becoming damaged by bad weather.

SOME UMBRELLAS ARE MADE OUT OF PLASTIC SO THAT THEY STOP RAIN FROM FALLING ON US AND MAKING US WET.

Have a look around your classroom. What can you see that might be made out of plastic?
TOYS

Plastic is used to make many different toys and games because it is light, but also strong and durable. Buckets and spades are often made out of plastic. They are light so they can be carried easily but are strong enough to hold the heavy sand. If they get wet, the water can be wiped away!

PLASTIC IN HEAT

When plastic is heated to a very high temperature, it will melt. When a plastic object has been melted it can be recast into a different shape. Once the plastic cools, it is set in the new shape and cannot be changed unless it is melted again. Plastic drinks bottles can be melted down and recast as tables or chairs. It is important that we recycle as many plastic items as possible so that they can be reused.

Be careful!

When plastic melts, it releases gases that can be dangerous if we breathe them in.

Do you have any toys or games that are made out of plastic?

SOME HAND-HELD GAME CONSOLES ARE MADE OUT OF PLASTIC. THEY ARE LIGHT SO YOU CAN HOLD THEM BUT STRONG SO THEY CANNOT BE EASILY BROKEN.