

# It's not much fun trying to avoid mess on pavements

We have a large problem that has slowly got worse over the last few years and we need your help.

If you take a walk around the Spring Grove area of Kingston, you will need to watch your step as the pavement is covered in dog poo.

Portland Road, which is where St John's School is and the surrounding roads leading to Athelstan Playground, are particularly bad.

There are a lot of dog-lovers at our school and the children love seeing the dogs that come on the school run. So we are not campaigning against dogs. In fact we love them, but

we fully appreciate and teach our children we must pick up the dog poo.

We have all walked past dog mess but when children are scooting to school, they scoot through it, some will no doubt walk in it and parents wheel their prams through it and then go into Kingston and wheel it, unknowingly, into the shops. Let alone the children bringing it into the school.

Foxes also seem to be attracted to dog poo and therefore end up pooing everywhere too.

Just before Christmas there was an enormous dog poo just

by the entrance to the school gates. Two parents took it upon themselves to get some bleach and a bucket of water and wash it away.

One of the parents had called the council to see if they could help but there is not a department for dog poo pavement cleaning.

This is where our children at St John's School come in. It is not much fun walking or scooting to school having to watch out for dog poo all the time.

With full support from the school, we are initiating a poster campaign to remind our community that we all

love dogs but please pick up the dog poo.

We will ask all businesses and shops to display some of the children's posters which will also be displayed along the fence at school.

We hope this will make the less conscientious dog owners more aware of their actions and make our pavements a cleaner and more hygienic place to walk. Thank you for helping us spread the word with this campaign.

**EMERALD GILL**  
Chairman of St John's  
School parent and  
staff association

## Pupils get tough on dog mess

Children driven potty by dog mess outside their school have put up posters asking owners to pick up their poo.

Staff and governors at St John's Primary School in Portland Road, Kingston, decided to act as the problem grew steadily worse in recent years.

Emerald Gill, chairman of the parent and staff association, said the situation was particularly bad in roads around the school and near Athelstan playground.

Children designed posters urging people to clear up after their pets, and put them along the school railings and in shop windows.

Headteacher Janet Tuck said: "We have had so many children coming to school with dog poo on their shoes or scooters.

"It's horrible and unnecessary as most responsible dog owners do clear up after their dogs.

"I myself own a dog and have got hours of pleasure from her company so we would stress that we are not against



**Clean-up campaign: Headteacher Janet Tuck with Jack Hickson, Charlie Meredith and Nancy Bucke**  
Deadlinepix KT65043

dogs just would like to encourage all owners to dispose of their dogs' poo and not leave it on the pavements."



PickUP  
you're Pet's Poop!