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**Composting** Class 4,5 & 6 (group 1)

To take ownership of the compost system you will need to follow a few simple guide lines. Below are recipes for creating the perfect mix of organic matter for worms to munch their way through. This will then give our school gardens lots of school made compost & fertilizer to add to our vegi patches & also reduce our school waste.

When working with compost or in the garden always remember to wear gloves.

The compost bins and worm farms will need to be tended to once a week, making sure that they are turned & checked for moisture levels.

**Compost Recipe**

2 buckets fruit & vegi scraps, coffee grinds, crushed egg shells

1 bucket shredded paper

1 bucket leaf / weed waste NON SEEDING – otherwise the seeds will germinate in the compost & create more weeds

Do not add: meat, bones, fat, dairy foods or any plants that have been treated with chemicals. Alternate the ingredients by layering them inside a compost bin. The bins will need to be turned over (mixed) with a garden fork once a week to make sure there is enough air circulating through. This is also to make sure that there are no thick spots in which the worms cannot get to. Once the bin is full, it is then time to let it rest for a week or so, by not adding any more to it & let the worms finish their job. The nutrient rich compost can then be added to the soil in the vegi beds.

**Worm Farm Recipe**

1/2 bucket fruit & vegi scraps, coffee grinds, crushed egg shells

1/4 bucket shredded paper

1/4 bucket leaf / weeds NON SEEDING – otherwise the seeds will germinate in the compost & create more weeds

Put ¼ bucket of dirt & worms into top tray of the worm farm. Once they’re settled in, you can start feeding your worms the recipe. Do not feed them: meat, bones, fat, dairy foods or any plants that have been treated with chemicals. Cover with a thick layer of wet paper to hold everything in place.

If the paper is dry – so is your worm farm so add a little water to moisten it again. Worms like their environment to be warm, moist and dark.

The worms will produce ‘worm wee’ which is the by-product of them eating all the scraps. This is a fantastic natural organic fertilizer for the vegi’s & fruit trees.

Worm wee can be collected at any stage from the under tray tap. Use 1 part worm wee & 4 parts water in a watering can and then watered onto the vegi patches. You may like to keep a diary of where you have put the worm wee so that it is evenly distributed onto every vegi patch.