

A story from the senior room at Morven School in the South Island of New Zealand.

If you came to visit Morven School three months ago you would have heard about how all the children knew the benefits of eating their vegetables and getting plenty of exercise. The children were proud of their vegetable gardens and greenhouse and loved cooking the foods that they grew in their garden. They spent most of their school day working hard and because of this they were known in the area as being great readers, writers and mathematicians.

One day a new student arrived at Morven School. She was not used to working hard at school and certainly did not like eating vegetables and other healthy food. This new student was so used to not working hard and not eating anything unless it came in a packet that at first she found it very odd at the school.

The other students at the school felt sorry for the new student so they tried to spend time with her. Because she was not very fit they had to play games that suited the new student. Over the weeks the new student told her new friends that she didn't think they should have to eat healthy food and that it tasted bad. Why couldn't they all have their lunches in pretty packets with lots of salt. When vegetables were taken from the garden and cooked the new student made loud moaning noises and even in front of the little children said that she wouldn't possibly eat any of it. "It tasted YUK!"

Slowly one by one the little children at the school began to believe the new student about the food and each time food was offered to the children more and more students refused the food. After several months went by less of the children were trying new food and less and less were eating the vegetables. More and more the children asked their parents for lunch in packets just like the new student had. The teachers noticed that the children were not so energetic anymore and found playing games outside very difficult. They also noticed that the students were no longer focused on their learning as much and some children had even become restless and grumpy.

Because very few children liked to try the vegetables anymore the teachers decided that having a vegetable garden was of no value so the garden was removed. In its place a great big bin was put so that the children could throw away their pretty lunch packets. If you come to Morven School now you will see the great big rubbish bin that sits in front of the classrooms and be able to admire the expensive lunches in pretty packets that the children eat. At least your child won't have to work hard and run much. Oh - - it will be so much easier.