



ECO- COUNCIL



Hello and welcome to our summer term eco newsletter.



This term has been another very busy one in school as the deadline to apply for our Eco Schools Green Flag Award approaches. As the weather cheered up a little, we were able to get outside and continue our work on improving biodiversity with our school grounds and our school grounds as a whole.



We would like to take this opportunity to share some of the work with you.



World Environment Day



On Thursday 6th June, we celebrated World Environment Day in school. The day started with Mrs. Marsden reading the children a story about a turtle called Duffy. Duffy had a lucky escape when she swallowed a plastic bag that had ended up in the ocean. Each year group then focused their learning for the day on a different topic.



- EYFS: Healthy Living (healthy eating habits)
- Year 1: Biodiversity (minibeast hunt)
- Year 2: School Grounds (pebble painting)
- Year 3: Biodiversity (mapping habitats)
- Year 4: Healthy Living/transport (air pollution)
- Year 5: Global Citizenship (raising money for charity)
- Year 6: Marine (single-use plastics)



The children in Year 5 made their own products from recycled materials. They then sold these and raised £80.60 for The Sea Life Trust charity. Huge congratulations to the children in Year 5.



Here are some photographs of the learning that took place:



Crisp Packets Wanted

On World Environment Day, the children in Year 6 looked at the effects of single-use plastic on our environment. They learnt a lot about this and decided that they wanted to become actively involved in recycling soft plastics, in the form of crisp packets. Each class was urged to bring in used crisp packets, rather than throwing them in the bin. Each week, the eco-councillors counted the number of crisp packets that were collected by their class before a whole-school total was counted. Mrs. Marsden then took all of the crisp packets to Morrisons in Wednesbury, where there is a recycling facility. In total, we have recycled **1967** packets in 4 weeks!! How amazing is this! Thank you to everybody who added to our total. We will continue this in September.



Walk to School Week

May saw us promoting Walk to School week at Harvills. During the launch assembly, Mrs. Marsden shared a lot of information about the benefits of walking to school, including those for our health as well as how less cars around the school gates can in fact make the air a lot cleaner.

A survey was carried out before Walk to School Week. A follow-up survey at the end of the week showed that a great deal of children and their parents had made a conscious effort to walk as much of the way to school as possible.

We are hoping that this great work continues and that, if families live quite a distance from school, they remember to park and stride instead. This involves parking a street or two away from the school gates and striding in. This too will help to reduce the air pollution.



Auntie Duck

Auntie Duck is the main character in a children's storybook focusing on air pollution and its impact on our health and wellbeing. The storybook helps children understand more about the air they breathe and how they can help keep it clean.



After a visit from a member of the Air Quality and Climate Change Engagement team at Sandwell Council, our Year 4 children were invited to design a poster to share the key messages of Auntie Duck. We were over-the-moon to be told that Nimrat in 4NB came in second place. Therefore, her design was turned into a poster that we can display at school. If you haven't seen it yet, have a look on the fence by the main entrance.



Gardening Club

Our school's gardening club formed this term. Children from across KS1 and KS2 joined Mrs. Marsden, Mrs. D'Vaz, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Vaughan and Miss Woolvin to transform the science garden.

Homes for wildlife have been created, foods to eat have been planted and bedding flowers are now growing inside donated wellington boots. We are really excited to see what grows next year.



We would like to say a huge thank you to the parents that have been giving some of their time to help in the garden. We have had a very dedicated team who have dug out flower beds and have done some planting. We very much appreciate all their hard work, especially when it was so hot outside!!



Please see our Facebook page to see examples of our work.

In school, we held a competition to rename the science garden. I am pleased to announce that our science garden has been renamed and will now be known as The Nature Patch. This name was suggested by Scarlett in Year 6. Here is the new logo that will be made into a plaque to be placed at the entrance to the garden in the autumn term.





'Rubbish' Poetry

In June, Year 6 were visited by a writer named Peter Wynne-Wilson. The children had a very enjoyable time writing excellent 'rubbish' poems! The stimuli for their poetry was a bag of rubbish, which Peter brought with him. The children have typed up their poems and they have been collated to make a class anthology.



Litter Pick

Once again, our Eco-councillors in KS2 joined forces with Litter Watch to collect litter from the local area. We have some amazing news to share: there were no milk cartons in sight! This just goes to show what an amazing assembly the Eco-council led and how well their message was received. Good job, everybody!



Eco-Code

The Eco-Council have reflected on the work that we have done across school this year. They created an Eco-code, which is our whole school promise to protect our planet

Eco-Code



Helping our planet is what we aim to do
All our small actions will make this come true
Recycling is key; it's not just a trend
Valuing flowers and trees: we're all nature's friend
In our gardens, homes for creatures we build
Log piles, bug hotels, patches of wild field
Litter is in bins, our school grounds are clean
Saving water and energy; we all want to be green!

In unity we flourish, a brighter future ahead,
Let's nurture our Earth, on this journey we've led!