



ECO- School

Welcome to our spring term Eco-School newsletter.

As the days grow brighter, it's the perfect time to celebrate the brilliant environmental work happening across Harvills. Our children continue to show real commitment to caring for the planet and we're excited to share some highlights from this term.

Litter pick with Litter Watch

In March, the KS2 eco-councillors conducted a litter pick around the school perimeter with Alison from Litter Watch and Mrs. Marsden.

Unfortunately, they only walked to the Ashmole Road entrance and picked 4 large bags of litter from the hedges on their travels! Lots of the litter found was bottles that had been thrown over our school fence. The eco-councillors are going to be presenting their findings to the school when we return from the Easter holiday. They will also be spreading the message about the importance of not dropping litter.

In the summer term, we are hoping to do a community litter pick where we will be inviting adults from home to join us in our mission to free our school grounds of unwanted litter. Please look out for further information about this in the coming term.



WOW Living Streets – Outstanding Active Travel

WOW Living Streets continues to be a huge success at Harvills. Here are our achievements so far:

- We placed **6th and 8th** on the **Sandwell Top Ten Leaderboard**
- Pupils completed an incredible **29,968 active journeys**
- **1,848 badges** were awarded
- **79% of children** are now travelling to school actively

With spring on the way, let's see if we can push that number even higher. Active travel brings so many benefits, including:

- Cleaner air around the school gates
- Improved physical and mental health
- Reduced traffic and congestion
- A calmer, safer start to the school day



Thank you to all families who continue to support this initiative.

The Big Walk and Wheel: A Week of Active Travel Success

We were thrilled to take part in **The Big Walk and Wheel** from 23rd–27th March. Throughout the week, pupils learned about the importance of active travel and the positive impact it has on our wellbeing and our planet.

Their commitment paid off, as our school proudly achieved the **bronze and silver and gold awards**. In total, our school made **over 900 active journeys**—an incredible achievement that will make a meaningful difference to children's physical and mental health as well as the environment.



Bronze badge: 225 journeys



Silver badge: 450 journeys



Gold badge: 900 journeys



A Splash of Learning: Severn Trent Visits Our School



We were delighted to welcome **Severn Trent Water** into school this term. Children learnt quite a lot:

- 
- How water is cleaned and treated before it reaches our homes
 - Why water is such a precious resource
 - Simple ways we can all avoid wasting it



They also shared an important reminder: **only the 3 Ps should go down the toilet—pee, poo and (toilet) paper**. Everything else belongs in the bin to protect our pipes and the environment.



World Water Day – Understanding Our Precious Resource



To mark World Water Day, children explored where our water comes and learnt about the water cycle.

They also discussed why it is so important not to waste water. Here are some of the key reasons:

- 
- 
- Fresh, clean drinking water is a limited resource
 - Treating and pumping water uses energy, which impacts the environment
 - Wasting water increases demand on rivers and reservoirs
 - We are extremely fortunate to have safe water available at the turn of a tap



Children were particularly moved to learn that in some countries, children cannot attend school because they must walk long distances to collect water from wells or rivers. This water is often not clean and drinking it can lead to serious illnesses caused by germs and bacteria.



Children then explored practical ways they can save water at home and in school:

- 
- Turning off the tap while brushing their teeth
 - Taking shorter showers
 - Using a bowl when washing up
 - Reporting dripping taps
 - Only flushing the toilet when necessary
 - Using water butts to collect rainwater for gardens

