



Leicester news

January 2018

What is Eco-Schools Leicester?

Leicester City Council has a dedicated Environmental Education Coordinator based in the Environment Team who works with schools to help them become more sustainable in all that they do.

As well as one to one support, schools are able to engage through termly #EcoTeachMeets, staff training, resource planning & workshops, assemblies, Eco-Schools conferences & celebration events and can keep up to date through a dedicated Twitter account, monthly eBulletins and termly newsletters.

The Eco-Schools programme provides exciting opportunities for students in curriculum time as well as outside the classroom. Learning outside the classroom (LOTC) has been identified as 'memorable activities leading to memorable learning and positively contributing to pupil safety'. LOTC provides positive benefits to all groups of young people and supports a rich, relevant, broad and balanced curriculum.

Welcome to the January Leicester Eco-Schools newsletter. Last term was immensely busy, not least because it was nearly 17 weeks! We ran the 6 Eco-Schools roadshow days, launched the healthier air for schools award, ran Eco-Schools training for school staff, for governors and for Primary PGCE students, we ran our first termly #EcoTeachMeet as well as attended a number of local teach meets. And of course meeting lots of children and staff to support them with their progress in their Eco-School journey. **As always get in touch if you need any support, Lee.**



How to find out more

Lee Jowett

Environmental Education Coordinator

Phoenix House, King Street, Leicester LE1 6RN

✉ Lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk

www.schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

🐦 [@EcoSchoolsLCC](https://twitter.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)

☎ 0116 454 2271



During the Eco-Schools Roadshow we raised awareness of the Global Goals.

Why not do the same in your school?

Finished reading? Pass on to a colleague

Eco-School Awards

Schools can register for Eco-Schools for free at www.eco-schools.org.uk/register

There are 3 levels of award: Bronze, Silver and Green Flag which were **recently updated in September 2017**.

At **Bronze** level your school has set up an Eco-committee, carried out a review, created an action plan for one topic and shared this with the whole school.

At **Silver** level your school has done the above plus involved the whole school and wider community and carried out monitoring and evaluation for one in-depth piece of work on one of the nine topics. You have also identified where environmental issues are covered in the curriculum.

At **Green Flag Award** status, your school has done all of the above plus carried out in-depth project work for three of the nine topics and developed an Eco-Code which reflects the topics you have worked on.

Bronze and Silver are self-certified online. For **Green Flag**, schools submit evidence online and are visited by an external assessor at a mutually agreed time.



Newsletter

Our Eco-Schools newsletters are published 4 times per year. If you would like to submit an article for the next newsletter, the deadline is the 9 March 2018. We ask for around 200 words, at least 1 photo and contact details e.g. name and email address to: eco-schools@leicester.gov.uk

Since September 2017

Recently registered or re-engaged

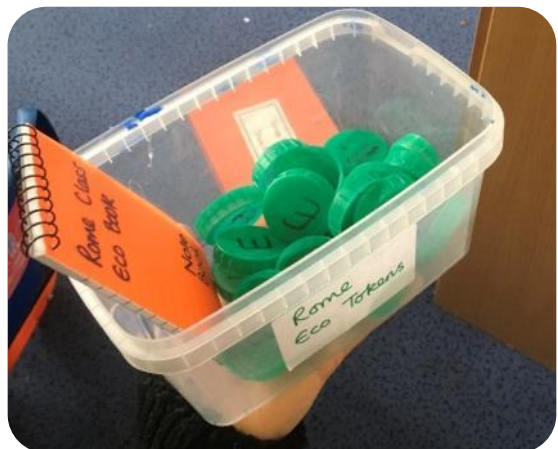
- Hamilton College
- Land of Learning Nursery and Primary School
- Leicester Islamic Academy
- Soar Valley College
- Wolsey House Primary School
- Wyvern Primary School

Bronze Award

- Land of Learning Nursery and Primary School

Silver Award

- Kestrels' Fields Primary School
- Willowbank Children's Hospital School



Like many schools, Hazel Community Primary School have been working on saving energy. Here are their energy tokens and winner's cup which is presented weekly for the most eco-friendly class.

Dates for your diary - 2018



Event	Summary	Further details
#EcoTeachMeets	#EcoTeachMeets are a termly opportunity to share an activity which you have done or find out about exciting activities and projects in Leicester, as well as nationally.	Thursday 8 February 2018 4.00pm-5.30pm at the Arts Centre, part of Mellor Primary School Tuesday 22 May 2018 4.00pm-5.30pm at Leicester Botanical Gardens
Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration event	An opportunity to showcase the fantastic work which Leicester Schools have done over the academic year. Now in its fourth year, it is a real treat!	Tuesday 12 June 2018 (all day) at City Hall, Leicester
RCE-EM Conference on Sustainable Development	A regional conference hosted in Leicester aimed at educators of Early Years through to Higher Education. The focus will be around Global Goal 4.7: 'Enabling all learning to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to promote sustainable development'.	Friday 16 March 2018 (all day) at City Hall, Leicester
Healthy Schools Network Dates	For more information please contact Rebecca Partington Rebecca.partington@sdsa.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 11 January 2018; 3.30pm-5.30pm (Healthy eating and physical activity – network meeting) • Tuesday 6 February 2018; 1.15pm-3.15pm (RSE and PSHE - network meeting) • Thursday 10 May 2018; 3.30-5.30pm (Emotional health and wellbeing – network meeting) • Tuesday 26 June 2018; 1.30-5.30pm (Sharing good practice marketplace)
Primary Chef of the Year competition	Following its success last academic year, the Primary Chef of the Year competition will be back. The final will be held at Leicester College. For more details please contact Andrew Dexter on: Andrew.Dexter@leicester.gov.uk	Tuesday 26 June 2018 (all day) Leicester College



Supports the Eco-Schools awards as part of sharing good practice and finding out what other schools are doing

The Eco-Schools Litter Less Campaign



LITTER LESS
CAMPAIGN

The Litter Less Campaign, led by Eco-Schools, aims to reduce litter and effect long-term behaviour change through implementing a waste management system, which involves the whole school. *Participating schools will take part in the Great British Spring Clean in March 2018*

Thursday 25 January 2018

9.00am – 3.30pm - Fullhurst Community College, Leicester

- Lunch and refreshments will be provided

Who would benefit from this project: All school staff with an interest in reducing litter in their school, including teachers, support staff, senior leaders and Eco-Schools leads, school business managers and site managers



Why attend?

- Use **strategies & activities to engage** your staff and students to reduce litter in and around the school grounds
- **Receive funding** to run a campaign and litter pick in and around your school grounds
- **Develop** big community engagement and impact work
- **Learn how to apply** for the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award and use project evidence to support this
- **Network** with colleagues, receive **resources** and **freebies**



Supports your Eco-Schools litter topic and awards  Eco-Schools

This event is **free and open to all schools in Leicester City**

To book your place please go to LitterLess.eventbrite.co.uk or Lee.Jowett@leicester.gov.uk as soon as possible to confirm

Creating Young Leaders in Sustainable Development

This conference will enable practitioners to support learners to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development (Global Goal 4.7). The conference will be a combination of workshops and activities to inspire and engage. There will be many opportunities to network, link research to practice and share your own knowledge and expertise.

Friday 16 March 2018

9.30am – 4.00pm - City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

Lunch and refreshments will be provided

Who would benefit from this conference: EYFS practitioners, primary school practitioners secondary school practitioners and post 16 practitioners in higher education and university who have an interest in environmental education or sustainable development.



Why attend?

- Collaborate with colleagues across and within educational settings
- Address the role of research and development in education
- Contribute to transformative education to support ambitions regarding sustainable living and livelihood
- Understand the **Global Goals for Sustainable Development** in more detail
- **Network** with colleagues, receive resources and freebies
- Hear from regional and national partners including **Eco-Schools, Practical Action, Earthwatch, Buglife and Sustrans**

This event is £25 for practitioners & professionals and a reduced rate of £10 for university students

If your organisation would like to exhibit please get in touch

Big Schools' Birdwatch 2018



Registration is now open for the event which takes place 2 January - 23 February 2018! You have until 31 January to register ahead of taking part and get a FREE bird ID resource. The RSPB give you access to all the resources you need, all you need is a bit of enthusiasm. Every year, educators from every corner of the UK take part with their classes. There's plenty of flexibility to run it with any age group of children and they have all resources to help. To participate in the Big Bird Watch go to the link below or search online for 'Big Schools' Birdwatch'

How to find out more

RSPB Education

twitter.com/Natures_Voice

www.facebook.com/RSPBLoveNature

www.instagram.com/rspb_love_nature



Supports the biodiversity Eco-Schools topic

Thinking of what to do in 2018?



2018 YEAR OF SPECIAL DAYS

Month	Special Days	Month	Special Days	Month	Special Days
JANUARY Waste	7 Old Rock Day 20 Penguin Awareness Day 24 Compliment Day 31 Int. Street Children's Day 31 Inspire Your Heart With Art Day	FEBRUARY Water	2 World Wetland Day ¹⁵ 5 World Cancer Day ³ 18 World Whale Day 20 World Day of Social Justice ¹⁶ 27 Polar Bear Day 28 Leap Day for Frogs	MARCH Energy	3 World Wildlife Day ¹⁵ 8 Int. Women's Day 17-23 National Water Week 20 Meat Out Day ² 21 Human Rights Day South Africa 22 World Water Day ⁶ 23 World Meteorological Day ¹³ 24 Earth Hour ¹³
APRIL Climate Change	2 Family Day ³ 4 International Day for Mine Awareness 7 World Health Day ³ 20-26 World Day of Actions ^{4 17} 22 Int. Earth Day ¹⁵ 22 Int. Mother Earth Day 25 Malaria Day 27 Freedom Day	MAY School Grounds	1 Workers' Day ⁸ 3 World Press Freedom Day 7-13 Int. Composting Awareness Week 13 Mother's Day 15 Int. Day of Families 18 Int. Museum Day ¹¹ 22 Int. Day for Biological Diversity ¹⁵ 23 World Turtle Day	JUNE Biodiversity & Nature	1 Int. Children's Day 5 World Environment Day ¹⁵ 8 World Oceans Day 16 Youth Day ⁸ 17 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought ¹⁵ 17 Father's Day 20 World Refugee Day
JULY Transport	4 Shark Awareness Day 11 World Population Day ⁴ 12 Malala Day 15 World Youths Skills Day 18 Nelson Mandela Day 29 Int. Tiger Day 30 Int. Day of Friendship 30 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	AUGUST Eco-Tourism	9 Int. Day of the World's Indigenous People 9 National Women's Day ⁸ 10 World Lion Day ¹⁵ 12 Int. Youth Day ⁸ 12 World Elephant Day ¹⁵ 19 World Humanitarian Day 20 World Mosquito Day ⁵ 23 Int. Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 31 African Traditional Medicine Day	SEPTEMBER Clean-Up	1-7 Arbor Week ¹⁵ 5 Int. Day of Charity 8 Int. Literacy Day ⁴ 15 World Clean-up Day & Int. Day of Democracy 10-16 Clean-up and Recycle SA Week ¹⁴ 16 Int. Day for the Presentation of the Ozone Layer 21 Int. Day of Peace & Zero Emissions Day 22 World Rhino Day 24 Heritage Day 26 World Environmental Health Day 27 World Tourism Day ^{8 12} 28 World Rabies Day ⁵
OCTOBER Marine & Coastal	2 World Habitat Day ¹⁵ 2 Int. Day of Non-Violence 4 World Animal Day ¹⁵ 5 World Teacher Day ⁴ 9-15 National Marine Week ^{14 15} 10 Int. Day for Natural Disaster Reduction 13 African Penguin Day ¹⁵ 16 World Food Day ² 17 Int. Day for the Eradication of Poverty ⁴ 24-30 Disarmament Week ¹⁶ 31 World Cities Day ¹¹ National Weedbuster Week - date TBC	NOVEMBER Health & Wellbeing	10 World Science Day for Peace and Development ¹⁵ 14 World Diabetes Day 19 World Toilet Day 20 Universal Children's Day ³ 21 World Fisheries Day 23 Buy Nothing Day ¹² 24 Birding Big Day 25 Int. Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	DECEMBER Community & Heritage	1 World Aids Day ³ 2 Int. Day for the Abolition of Slavery 3 Int. Day of Persons with Disabilities 5 World Soil Day ¹⁵ 10 Int. Human Rights Day 11 Int. Mountain Day ¹⁵ 16 Day of Reconciliation ¹⁶ 20 Int. Human Solidarity Day



Eco-Schools South Africa have produced this fantastic calendar for the year which also links to the Global Goals. If you would like to receive a full page version please email lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk



Supports informing and involving

Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 Schools' competition

Deadline for
submission
30 March 2018

Monday 26 February - Sunday 11 March

As you start planning for Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 why not think about entering our Fairtrade Fortnight School Competition, open to all Leicester City Schools. You don't have to be a Fairtrade School to enter - we want to hear from all schools!

To enter the competition all you need to do is submit a write-up of how your school celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight 2018. Please include evidence such as photos/pupil work with your submission.

- First prize £50 voucher
- Second prize £30 voucher
- Third prize £10 voucher

Entries will be judged on impact, imagination, educational content and relevance to the theme of the year: 'Stand with farmers and close the door to exploitation'

For more information and to receive an application form please contact:

Lee Jowett, Leicester City Council
lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk 0116 454 2271

“Stand with farmers and close the door to exploitation”



Prizes kindly donated by
The co-operative
Central England Co-operative



Fairtrade Fortnight 2018

'What's the impact?'

Deadline for
submission
30 March 2018

Monday 26 February - Sunday 11 March 2018

Many different ethical and environmental marks can be found on food products these days, but what do they all mean?

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 we are asking KS4 and KS5 students to research the different marks and the differences between them. As part of this research we would also like the students to speak to local retailers to find out which marks they sell, and why. **Please focus on the marks to the right.**

To enter students will need to produce a PowerPoint (up to 10 slides) or a written report (up to 3 pages) about their findings. Students can enter the competition individually or as part of a group (maximum of 3). Shortlisted entrants will be invited to present their findings to a panel of judges, including Cllr Clarke, Deputy City Mayor with responsibility for Environment, Public Health and Health Integration.

You can also enter the Leicester Fairtrade Schools competition as part of your research project if it involves carrying out a campaigning activity.

Briefing

- There is no limit to how many students from one school or college can enter the 'What's the impact?' project.
- The deadline is 23.59 on Friday 30th March 2018.
- Entries need to be emailed to lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk
- Entries need to include the student's name, age (and year group), name of their school/college and contact name for their teacher/tutor



For more information please contact:
Lee Jowett, Leicester City Council
lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk 0116 454 2271

#EcoTeachMeets Leicester 2017/18



- Thursday 8 February 2018, 4.00pm-5.30pm at the Cross Corners Arts Centre, part of Mellor Primary School www.crosscorners.co.uk Thurcaston Road, Leicester, LE4 5PE

'True' TeachMeet – book a 5 or 8 minute slot

Book via WinterEcoTeachMeet.eventbrite.co.uk



Supports the Eco-Schools awards
as part of your evidence

- Tuesday 22 May 2018, 4.00pm-5.30pm at the University of Leicester Botanic Gardens, Glebe Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 2LD

Marketplace and interactive workshops on outdoor learning

Book via SpringEcoTeachMeet.eventbrite.co.uk

#EcoTeachMeet



Learn about all the latest environmental activities happening both in the city and nationally

If you would like to present something you have done in school that would be great - otherwise just come along to learn something new! All school staff and like-minded organisations are welcome to come along! Book your place by [following the links above](#)

If you would like more information please contact Lee Jowett, Environmental Education Coordinator lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk or 0116 454 2271

Grow Your Own Grub Winners announced

Congratulations to Mayflower Primary Schools who won the Grow Your Own Grub competition for the third year running. The school celebrated back in October with a whole school presentation. Schools that had entered also attended and were presented with their certificates and goody bags.



Supports the Eco-Schools school
grounds and health living topics

Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire Forest Education Network



All events are open to everyone and booked on a first come basis

Saturday 10th February 2018 Needle Felt Workshop 10.00am to 1.00pm Workshop leader: Lauren Kinnersley of *Into the Wild Wood*. Many of you met her at the conference in November. Spend a relaxing morning in a cosy venue, learning the basic techniques of needle felting, and making your own needle felt puppet or figure. Content to include: choosing wool types; choosing the right needle size; techniques for making simple finger puppets; tips on sourcing materials

VENUE: The Studio Post Office Garden: 568 Woodborough Road, Mapperley, Nottingham, NG3 5FH **Cost: £25** (a discounted rate for those booking through Notts & Leics Forest Education Network)

To book text the secretary of Notts and Leics FEN on 07887 996293 or email nottsleicsfen@outlook.com Booking deadline: Saturday 20th January 2018

Wednesday 21 February 2018 - Using natural objects and the forest environment to create new stories with children. by popular request Meeting & refreshments 4.00 – 4.30. At 4.30 Bethan Painter will give a brief explanation of her work with Enstruct. She will follow this with the storytelling session. A great opportunity to pick up new storylines and share your ideas.

VENUE: Enstruct Training, Unit 12b Faircharm Industrial Estate, Evelyn Drive, Leicester, LE3 2BU **Free** meeting and workshop. Let Cath know if you plan to attend 07887 996293 or nottsleicsfen@outlook.com Directions and further information will be sent out the week before the meeting

Sunday 25 February - Sharp Tools CPD day 9.00am – 4.00 pm. A great opportunity to hone your small tool skills with bushcraft expert, Dave Watson. www.woodlandssurvivalcrafts.com To be held in the round house with a good fire and plenty of lanterns – so whatever the weather, everyone should be warm enough. This course was very popular last time round as it covers basic knife safety and techniques; choice of wood and simple splitting; sharpening and maintenance, knife law; safe use of saws of different types; saw bench ideas and projects.

VENUE: Spring Wood, Derby/Notts border (nearest post code DE73 8BJ) **COST: £50** (a discounted rate, normally £80, for those booking through Notts & Leics Forest Education Network) to book a place, **text** the secretary of Notts and Leics FEN on **07887 996293** or email nottsleicsfen@outlook.com **Booking deadline: Saturday 27th January 2018**

ADVANCE NOTICE: Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 March - Small Roundwood Construction 9.30 – 16.00 This two day course aims to give you the confidence and understanding of the use of axes, froes and billhooks in order to build simple structures.

VENUE: Spring Wood, Derby/Notts border (nearest post code DE73 8BJ) **COST: £140**, a discounted rate (normally £180) for those booking through Notts & Leics FEN) To book a place or request full details please phone or text the secretary of Notts and Leics FEN on **07887 996293** or email nottsleicsfen@outlook.com

Friday 20 & Saturday 21 April, Forest School /Outdoor learning First Aid Course – at Manor Farm Park and Woodlands, Castle Hill, East Leake, LE12 6LU

Andy Forsyth will deliver a Forest School First Aid course that follows the ITC modular framework. The course is aimed at those working with children (from 1 year old & upwards) and adults in an outdoor setting. **Cost £115** (subsidised) if you know your first aid certificate needs renewing in 2018 you can reserve your place **now**. At this price, the places will go quickly. Email Cath Thomson nottsleicsfen@outlook.com or text 07887 996293

Tuesday 19 June 2018 - Shelter building using natural materials 6.00pm – 9.00pm

More information to follow **VENUE:** Spring Wood, Derby/Notts border (nearest post code DE73 8BJ) **Cost £28** (A special price for our FEN group, will only apply if booked through the group and paid for in advance)

DATE TO BE CONFIRMED in July 2018, String/Rope Making Day 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Creating real string and rope out of natural materials in order to use in a variety of no nonsense ways is fascinating and will open your eyes in a new way to what is around you. We will be utilizing a wide variety of materials including bark fibres, woodland and waterside plants in order to make simple cordage for woodland jewellery, for holding the full weight of a person as well as a bow string for making fire and maybe even an arrow. **VENUE:** Spring Wood, Derby/Notts border (nearest post code DE73 8BJ) **Cost £38** (This is a special price for our FEN group and will only apply if booked through the group and paid for in advance)

Saturday 10 November 2018 - Forest School and Outdoor Learning SKILLS DAY 9.30 -3.30. Experienced or beginner, something for everyone and great value. Choice of three from 6 great practical workshops to be announced in 2018

VENUE: Manor Farm & Woodlands, Castle Hill, East Leake, LE12 6LU

Cost £30 in advance, £35 on the day. Will take bookings after full programme is published in April 2018.



Supports the school grounds Eco-Schools topic

Leicester Mercury Education Awards



WINNER AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL, LEICESTER

THIS is an innovative eco-school working with children to understand their impact on the planet and the environment.

Sue Pears, the eco-schools co-ordinator there, has been spearheading the whole school approach to environmental education.

However, she is supported by many other teachers, support staff and the wider community. Among the many examples of the work it is doing is Avenue's

participation in the 90kg rice challenge. The whole school worked to sell 90kg of Kilombero Rice which is grown in Malawi. This amount raises funds for the farmer to put a child through school for a year.

The children created spice and recipe packs, as well as working with the kitchen to produce Fairtrade rice pudding. The success of this meant that they were able to sell far more than 90kg and raised enough funds for a farmer to buy a plough. Avenue staff and students never stop looking for new projects, involving air quality around the school to encouraging as many as possible to walk or cycle to school.

It has installed solar panels and has an energy focus group made up from children, teachers and support staff to look at how they can save energy.

The nomination said: "All in all, Avenue is an amazing school which involves its children in many wide-ranging projects which not only makes the school environmentally friendly but also ensures children and families are eco-minded for the future."

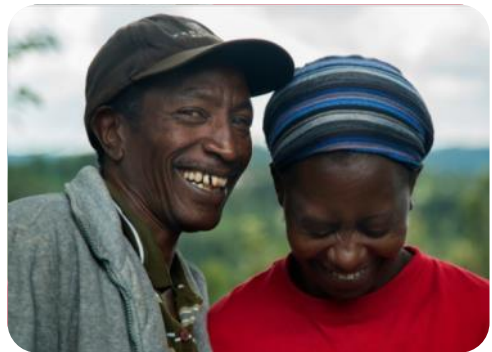
In December, I had the pleasure of attending the Leicester Mercury Awards at Leicester City Football Club. The event celebrated all the excellent work taking place in Leicester and Leicestershire. Bridge Junior School and Avenue Primary School were shortlisted for the 'green school' award. Ultimately Avenue Primary School were successful in winning the category. It was also great to see recognition for Katie France and the Living Streets project which won the healthy school award category. Watch out for next year's awards evening. I know there are many schools capable of winning both these categories.



Fairtrade Fortnight 2018

Fairtrade Fortnight this year is from **Monday 26 February - Sunday 11 March 2018**.

The Fairtrade Fortnight schools Action Guide can now be downloaded from the Fairtrade Foundation website. It has lots of ideas about how your school can get involved in Fairtrade Fortnight and invites you to 'Come on in' to meet Fairtrade Farmers. Launched in January is also a new Immersive film '[Samuel's Fairtrade Story](#)'. It uses VR technology and takes you on a 360 degree tour of his farm. The Fairtrade pack can also be downloaded from [their site](#).



Supports the Eco-Schools global topic

Happy Shoes Day at Bridge Junior School

Congratulations to Bridge Junior School who recently participated in the Happy Shoes Day. Children and their families brought in old pairs of shoes which raised funds for the school. All shoes will be taken and reused in developing countries in Africa. Well done to everyone taking part!



Supports the Eco-Schools recycling topic

Healthier Air for Schools Award

Healthier
AIR
for Leicester



Poor air quality affects people's health and damages the environment. In Leicester there are two main pollutants of concern: nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. The main source of these pollutants is road traffic, in particular diesel engines.

Leicester has an air quality action plan, a strategic approach to delivering better air quality. This action plan sets out how we will improve air quality and meet the EU standards for nitrogen dioxide, but we cannot achieve this alone. We are asking you to support tackling air quality by tackling parking around your school and actively encouraging sustainable transport for students, staff and parents. All schools can achieve the healthier air for schools awards.

You can submit your evidence at any time, however submissions will be reviewed monthly. Download the application form from the school extranet schools.leicester.gov.uk/HealthierAir

Email your completed form and evidence to Amita Miles, Amita.Miles@leicester.gov.uk. If we need any extra information or clarification we will be in touch. All schools who achieve the award will be invited to the celebration event at City Hall on **Tuesday 12 June 2018**.

Your award lasts 12 months from approval. *You will need to renew annually to maintain your award.*



In order to achieve a **pass** in the Healthier Air in Schools award you need to submit evidence of:

1. Achieving at least your **Silver Eco-Schools Award** with the topic of **transport** covered
2. At least 1 **ongoing scheme** for example Living Streets - Walk to School, Sustrans Bike It - which has lasted at least 2 school terms.
3. At least 1 event involving **parents and the community** e.g. car-free day, clean air day, raising awareness of the problem of idling*

***(Idling** refers to running a **vehicle's** engine when the **vehicle** is not in motion i.e. parking outside the school gates)

You can also achieve a **merit** by evidencing other activities in school

- **You can submit evidence of activities which have taken place in the last 12 months.**



Supports the transport and healthy living Eco-Schools topics



Permaculture Design Course 2018



Leading to the award of a **Permaculture Design Course attendance certificate** from the Permaculture Association. This 12 day course introduces the ethics and principles of permaculture in a friendly and interactive way. You will have the chance to see permaculture in action at Graceworks urban community garden and spend a weekend at a working farm practicing Regenerative Agriculture. Lead tutors Samantha Woods and Hannah Thorogood are highly experienced and certified by the Permaculture Association

Course Dates:

Introduction to Permaculture: 20th and 21st January 2018 @ Graceworks 9am-5pm

Full PDC: 20th/21st Jan, 24th Feb, 24th Mar, 21st Apr, 26th&27th May, 30th Jun, 21st Jul, 22nd Sep, 20th &21st Oct

Venues:



Urban Community Garden and Place of Welcome at the Wycliffe URC, the Common Evington, LE5 6EA.



The Inkpot

Permaculture Demonstration site and working smallholding demonstrating regenerative agriculture in Lincolnshire.



Course Costs: includes resources, certificate and refreshments and full cost of camping trip to the Inkpot

Introduction to Permaculture only: £70, £50, £30 sliding scale

Full PDC including Intro Course cost and weekend trip to Inkpot: £480, £360, £240 payable in instalments

Sliding scale - we ask you to pay as much as you can afford but we try not to exclude anyone on cost grounds.

Food and Drink:

Drinks and snacks provided. Lunches will be bring and share or bring own packed lunch.

Course Content: Full course includes: Permaculture ethics, principles and design process, Design Tools, Learning from Nature, Patterns, Green Architecture, Retrofitting, Soil, Water, Aquaponics, Permaculture gardening, People and Permaculture, Co-operatives and Social Enterprises, Money Futures, Land Justice, Designing your permaculture lifestyle, Regenerative Agriculture, Forest Gardens.

Safe Happy Family Day at Whitehall Primary School

In November, Whitehall Primary School worked with Leicester City Council to create a 'Safe Happy Families' event to show parents and carers the work they are doing on issues such as health and the environment, and to showcase a short video about what they like and dislike about their neighbourhood. Many activities took place during the afternoon including an opportunity to try an electric bike, meet city council parking officers and pledges to walk, cycle or scoot to school more often.

Cllr Kirk Master said: "This event is part of our plans to get more children walking and cycling to schools – and to show that your everyday journey to school can be fun. By involving parents and children in the event, we hope they will think about changing the way they travel to school and help tackle the problems associated with congestion and parking in our schools."



Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics

National Tree Week 2017



We celebrated national tree week which took place between 25 November and 3 December 2017. Leicester schools received an informative PointPoint with facts and figures about the trees and the people that look after them in Leicester. Trees are really important because they create habitats for wildlife, provide food, fuels and building materials, absorb CO₂, can improve water and air quality as well as prevent flooding. To download a copy of the presentation which can be used at any time of year go to [this extranet link](#) or email lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk



Supports the school grounds and biodiversity Eco-Schools topics

Eco-Schools Roadshow 2017



Hundreds of local schoolchildren have been sharing ideas about how to make their schools greener as part of the Leicester Eco-Schools Roadshow. The month-long programme of workshops saw over 400 pupils from 31 local schools get together to learn about environmental projects and share ideas to promote sustainability.

Now in its second year, the roadshow visited six schools and worked with local partners to offer sessions on a range of sustainable issues including pollution and its impact on wildlife, growing your own food and helping reduce food and water waste, walking and cycling, and the importance of Fairtrade. Pupils from the host schools were also given the chance to showcase their own environmental projects. These included school recycling projects, litter reduction and energy saving campaigns.

Deputy City Mayor Cllr Adam Clarke, who leads on the environment and sustainability, said: "The Eco-Schools Roadshow is helping to get hundreds of children thinking about our impact on the environment and how they can help introduce green initiatives into their school lives. The schools have come up with some fantastic ideas and there is a real enthusiasm for tackling the challenge of living more sustainably, which we hope will spread to families and the wider community."





Hazel Primary School turning rubbish into art

Supports the recycling
Eco-Schools topic



More than 180 pupils from Hazel Community Primary School took part in the project, which encouraged them to recycle materials from home and use them to create models and sculptures for display in the school. The artwork went on display as a pop-up exhibition at Leicester's Adult Education Centre, in Belvoir Street. Winners from each school year group were chosen by the city council's environmental education coordinator. They received certificates and prizes including gift vouchers and stationery sets made from recycled materials. The winning designs included a robot in school uniform, made from a pizza box and take away tins, and a dog, made from a plastic bottle and insulation tape. Artwork was brought into school after half-term and has since been on display in the school.

The aim of the project was to help children and families to think more about what they throw away, whether it could be recycled, and consider why it's important to recycle or re-use our rubbish. It will also help the school, which already has a silver Eco-Schools award, on its journey towards achieving a prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. Gillian Blatherwick, head teacher at Hazel Community Primary School, said: "We were overwhelmed at how successful this project was. It was great to see so many pupils get involved. You could clearly see it had been a whole team effort from children and their families". Deputy city mayor Cllr Adam Clarke said: "Environmentally-themed projects like this one get children thinking about how we use the resources around us, and as this project shows, that's a message that can then spread to the wider community. By making recycling and re-using waste 'normal' for the next generation, we'll be able to increase rates of recycling and reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill in the future."

Free Eco-Schools support from Severn Trent



Severn Trent's education team can visit your school to deliver a fun and interactive assembly that's all about the environment, water and how to look after it. They can also talk to your eco/school council to look at a plan for looking after water in your school and in the wider community. The visit is free and all pupils are given a Promise Postcard to take home. For further information go to www.stwater.co.uk/education



Supports the water Eco-Schools topic



Kestrels' Fields Primary School mascot competition

Not only have Kestrels' Fields Primary School recently achieved their Silver Eco-Schools Award, they have also been busy running an eco-mascot competition. All the classes entered the competition creating a mascot from recycled materials. They presented them in assembly and told the rest of the world about them through Twitter, which is all helping towards their Green Flag award.



Supports informing and involving



Marine Pollution

9 TIPS FOR LIVING WITH LESS PLASTIC



1 Bring your own shopping bag



2 Carry a reusable water bottle



3 Bring your own cup



4 Pack your lunch in reusable containers



5 Say no to disposable straws & cutlery



6 Skip the plastic produce bags



7 Slow down and dine in



8 Store leftovers in glass jars



9 Share these tips with your friends

LESS PLASTIC.

REFUSE SINGLE USE # CHOOSE REUSABLES

WWW.LESSPLASTIC.CO.UK

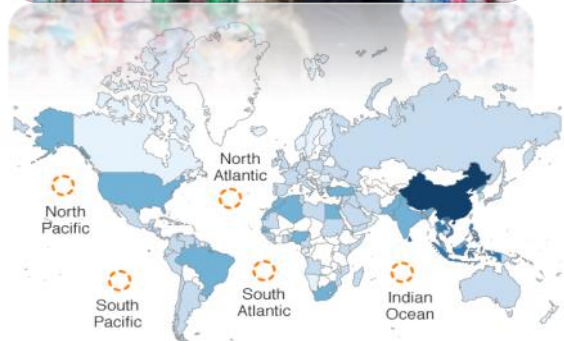
With Blue Planet II and recent news about China no longer accepting other countries' waste, it is now even more topical to be talking about plastic waste and how we can reduce it. Why not make it a new year's resolution with your class to reduce your plastic consumption? Plastic as we know it has only really existed for the last 60-70 years, but in that time it has transformed everything from clothing, cooking and catering, to product design, engineering and retailing. One of the great advantages of many types of plastic is that they're designed to last - for a very long time. And nearly all the plastic ever created still exists in some form today. Drinks bottles are one of the most common types of plastic waste. Some 480bn plastic bottles were sold globally in 2016 - that's a million bottles per minute. Of these, 110bn were made by drinks giant Coca Cola.

The BBC has an excellent article about plastic waste with some very good graphs (some of which are here), that can be found on [BBC news](#), or search for 'seven charts that explain the plastic pollution problem'.

More locally why not participate in our plastic milk bottle challenge? Carry out a survey of how many plastic milk bottles (and straws) your school uses ever week and see if you can come up with some clever ways of reducing them.

What kind of waste appears on UK beaches?

Items found per 100m



Source: Based on a Marine Conservation Society survey of 339 beaches across the UK

BBC

Source: Jambeck et al, Science Feb 2015, UNEP, NCEAS

BBC



Supports the Eco-Schools recycling and litter topics

Plastic waste and milk bottles



*Supports the Eco-Schools
waste topic*

Did you know? Last year Leicester City school children drank nearly 2 million bottles of milk!

We would like your Eco-team to look at how many bottles of milk your school drinks in a day (and a year) and how you might be able to reduce the amount of wasted milk, plastic and straws.

There is a very simple survey which can be downloaded from the school [extranet](#) or via [Survey Monkey](#). The survey covers things like, how many milk bottles per day, week and year, how many straws and three questions about how you could reduce your waste. A very topical activity with news about marine pollution and helps with your Eco-Schools waste topic.

Energy monitoring and EDI-Net



In December we successfully ran a training day with over 35 schools staff. Leicester City Council has been working with De Montfort University on the Edi-Net project. A smart use of data to enable users to visualise their energy and water consumption through smiley faces.

The afternoon involved teachers and staff looking at their own school data and reviewing where savings could be made. There were some very interesting conversations taking place! To review your own energy data look at the website below.



dashboard.edi-net.eu



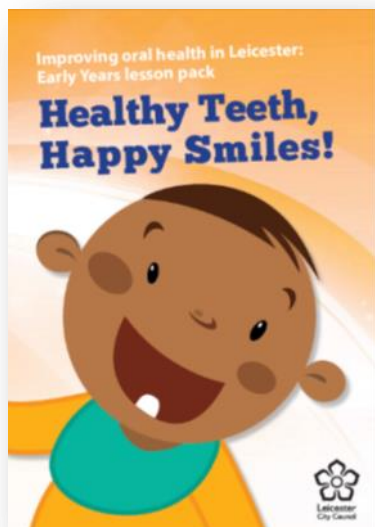
*Supports the Eco-Schools
energy topic*

Ashden Less CO₂ LESS



In October, Lee met with colleagues at Ashden to discuss the very successful Less CO₂ programme that nearly 40 schools have participated in over the last 3 years. The programme helps schools take control of their energy consumption through engagement with all stakeholders. Ashden are now keen to roll out the programme to even more schools throughout the UK. If you haven't already taken part in the programme and would like to in the next academic year do get in touch.

Happy Teeth, Happy Smiles Early Years and Primary School Lesson Pack



Supports the Eco-Schools healthy living topic

A Happy New Year from Leicester City Council's Oral Health Team! As we welcome 2018, we have an exciting new resource to share with you. The 'Healthy Teeth, Happy Smiles!' Early Years and Primary School lesson pack includes lesson plans, activities and stories to help children learn key oral health messages. Each activity can be delivered in a variety of ways, and is linked to the Early Years Foundation Framework/National Curriculum. By spreading these key messages you will significantly impact children in your setting, and their parents. Oral health for five year olds in Leicester is amongst the worst in England. Children in Leicester deserve to achieve their potential, and we are appealing for your help to improve their oral health. The educational resource packs are available to download for FREE by accessing this link <https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/sec/a4995269> and can be printed in house or used digitally. For any questions, additional resource enquiries, or feedback relating to the packs, please contact HealthyTeethHappySmiles@leicester.gov.uk

Mellor Primary School's Outdoor Classroom opens



With the support of players of [People's Postcode Lottery](#), the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust's team of [Grow Wild](#) gardeners have created 5 wild areas for children and wildlife to enjoy. The most recent one to open has been at Mellor Primary School. You can find out more about the garden via the YouTube video and the Grow Wild website.



Supports the Eco-Schools school grounds and biodiversity topics



Leicestershire & Rutland
Wildlife Trust



Central England Co-operative
Making a difference

Central England Co-operative and the Membership and Community Relations Team can offer a number of educational workshops to pupils in a fun and informative way. These are adapted to give hands-on experience and demonstrate our difference and vision as a Co-operative retailing business and make a difference in the community where we trade. Since the formation of the Co-operative Movement in 1844, Co-operative businesses have been providing educational programmes in a variety of ways for its members and communities.

The co-operative membership
 Here for you for life

- WORKSHOPS WE CAN OFFER INCLUDE:**
- Healthy Choices Workshop
 - Healthy Choices Shopping Challenge
 - Fairtrade and Co-operative History Assemblies
 - Ethical Challenges in Store
 - Educational Bee Visits - Peterborough Showground
 (Please see contact details on reverse)

These free interactive sessions provides pupils with useful information on a variety of topics:

Healthy Choices Workshop
 A 1-2 hour workshop providing a greater understanding of a healthy balanced diet. The workshop covers a range of food-related topics including healthy eating, 5 a day, understanding food labelling, perfect portions and food waste. **Learning opportunities:** team work, a greater understanding of 5 a day with a true or false session, looking at food packaging and understanding fat, saturated fats, sugar and salt content, how we can manage waste and how much food is thrown away.

Healthy Choices Shopping Challenge
 A one hour activity inviting children into a local Central England Co-operative store. Students work in teams to shop on a set budget for a meal for four adults and scan items at the till. **Learning opportunities:** team work, a greater understanding of labels on products, budgeting, product awareness and a hands-on experience of shopping.

Fairtrade and Co-operative History
 A 30 minute presentation on Fairtrade and the Co-operative Movement and how they are linked.

Ethical Challenges in Store
 A one hour activity inviting children into a local Central England Co-operative store. The students are given a question sheet relating to ethical products which can be found within the store, highlighting Fairtrade. **Learning opportunities:** the environment, labelling, packaging, zero to landfill and a hands on experience of a supermarket.

Educational Bee Visits (Peterborough Showground)
 A short classroom session with members of the Peterborough and District Beekeepers Association during which children will learn about the work and an opportunity to view the bees from a safe enclosed observatory. (To book please contact Sandra Lauridsen at the East of England Showground, Tel:01733 363514 or email: slauridsen@eastofengland.org.uk)

Activities can be adapted to suit all age groups.

For further information or to book a visit please contact:
 Member and Community Relations, Central England Co-operative, Hermes Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6RH
Telephone: 01543 414140 **Email:** member.community@centralengland.coop



Sandfield Close Primary School winter market and bulb planting

The eco-teams from Sandfield Close Primary School have been very busy promoting their environmental activities to the whole school including families and friends of the school. The children produced growing kits which were sold at the winter market and were busy planting bulbs in the school grounds – looking forward to seeing the bulbs in the spring!



Community Project Funding 2018



*Supports the Eco-Schools
school grounds and
biodiversity topics*

Deadline 15 January 2018!

Grow Wild is awarding funding of £2,000 or £4,000 to groups and projects that:

- Stand out from the crowd - think something creative, or even better something that hasn't been done before!
 - Focus on UK native wildflowers, plants and/or fungi, highlighting the importance of these species for the environment, and for quality of life.
 - Will engage one or more of these groups: Young people aged 12-18
 - Students and young people aged 18-25
 - People living in urban areas
 - People experiencing hardship and reduced access to services
 - Adults that are less engaged with their community and environmental activities
 - Will encourage large scale community involvement, ideally in the hundreds!
 - Will deliver the project in a space or location that is accessible to the general public i.e. is not in a restricted or controlled area
- For more information go to www.growwilduk.com/project-funding

#EcoTeachmeets 2017-18

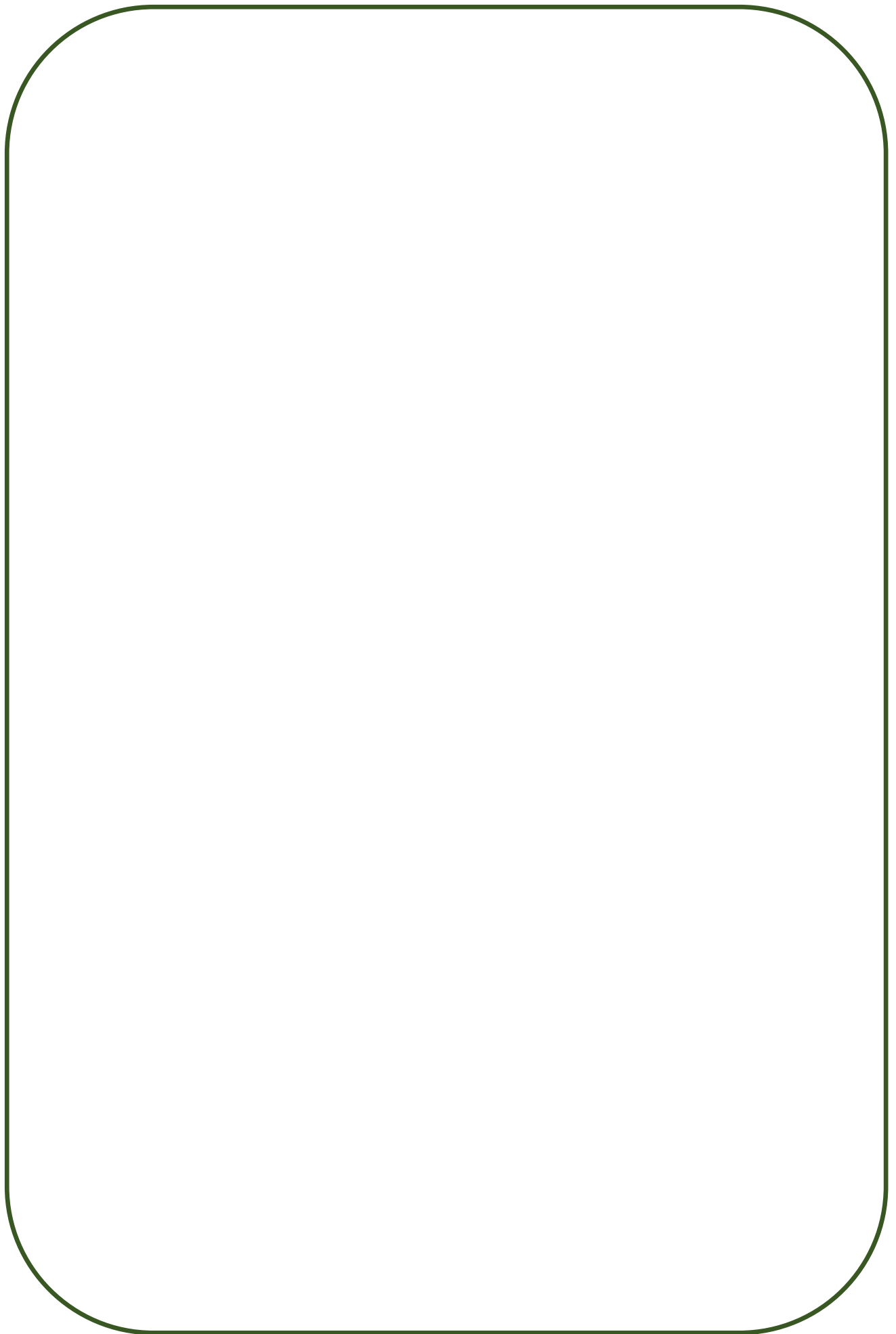
#EcoTeachMeet



Our first #EcoTeachMeet took place at Sandfield Close Primary last term. It was attended by colleagues from Primary and Secondary schools and was a great opportunity to hear about projects and activities taking place in Leicester. Sandfield Close was also able to present their wildlife areas, their recently installs solar panels and their amazing Geodome at the front of the school. Thank you to Sarah Eames and Sandfield Close for their hospitality. The next #EcoTeachMeet will be at Cross Corners which is part of Mellor Primary School later this term.



*Supports many of the
Eco-Schools topics*





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