



Leicester news

January 2019

What is Eco-Schools Leicester?

Leicester City Council has a dedicated Environmental Education Coordinator based in the Energy and Sustainability 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. Where did the Christmas break go? Happy New Year! Last term we had some fantastic events including our Eco-Roadshow and Sustainable Schools Celebration. Thank you to so many people that attended both. This term is all about embedding projects and looking at submitting for your Green Flag if you haven't already. You might have seen over Christmas that the government is encouraging all schools to go single use plastic free by 2023. We'll be sending out some information soon about some of the steps about how you could achieve this soon. **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

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

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

📘 [EcoSchoolsLCC](https://www.facebook.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)

☎ 0116 454 2271



Congratulations to Michelle, Charlie and the team at Bridge Juniors for winning overall individuals and school of the year at our Sustainable Schools Celebration which took place in October 2018.

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 **updated in September 2018**.

At **Bronze** level your school has set up an Eco-committee, carried out a review, created an action plan for three topics 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 three in-depth pieces of work on three of the ten 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 ten 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 Friday 5 April 2019. 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 August 2018

Recently registered or re-engaged

Braunstone Primary School
Ellesmere College
Holy Cross Primary School
Mowmacre Hill Primary School
Woodstock Primary Academy

Bronze

Dovelands Primary School
Leicester Islamic Academy

Green Flag Award

Belgrave St Peters C of E Primary
Coleman Primary School
Fosse Primary School
Green Lane Infant School

Green Flag Renewal

Overdale Junior School

Correct as of 28/12/2018

We now have 34 Green Flag Eco-Schools in Leicester which puts us in second place nationally. The top authorities are below (the top 3 have similar numbers of schools). *Watch our Wirral we are after number 1!*

Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	38
Leicester City Council	34
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council	19
Bristol City Council	17
Cheshire East	12
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	12
Wiltshire Council	12

#EcoTeachMeet Leicester

29 January 2019



English Martyrs' Catholic School Anstey Lane, Leicester LE4 0FJ

Tuesday 29 January 2019 4.00-5.30pm
Refreshments from 3.30pm

Presentations from colleagues on the impact of environmental education, projects and activities

If you would like to present please complete the Eventbrite presenter booking or get in touch

All school staff welcome! Book your place now:

WinterEcoTeachMeet19.eventbrite.co.uk

If you would like more information please contact Lee Jowett,
Environmental Education Coordinator

Lee.Jowett@Leicester.gov.uk or 0116 454 2271



Scan me



@EcoSchoolsLCC

schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

Dates for your diary – Eco events



Event	Event Summary	Further details (date/time/location)
#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.	Tuesday 29 January 2019 at English Martyrs' Catholic School 4.00-5.30pm Tuesday 21 May 2019 4.00pm-5.30pm at Graceworks, Evington (date TBC)
Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration event	An opportunity to showcase the fantastic work which Leicester Schools have done over the academic. Now in its fifth year, it is a real treat!	June 2019 (all day) at exact date and venue to be confirmed
Primary Chef of the Year competition	Following it's 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 25 June 2019 (all day) Leicester City College



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

UK Parliament speakers for schools

Our team of regional outreach officers go into schools and deliver informative assemblies and workshops. These free, curricula linked, sessions will support pupils to discover what the UK Parliament is, how it is relevant to them and how they can get involved and be active citizens. We offer a free, fun & interactive 20minute assembly suitable for KS2 and above, all about UK Parliament and how it works. For further details please contact Malcolm or see:

<https://www.parliament.uk/education/outreach-in-your-school/outreach-visits/>



www.parliament.uk

How to find out more

Malcolm Smith

Education and Engagement Officer – East Midlands

✉ SMITHMJ@parliament.uk

☎ 07395 799528

🌐 www.parliament.uk



Supports the Eco-Schools awards as part of sharing good practice and influencing change





WATER Poster Competition



Calling all Primary Schools!

The POWER project is launching a poster competition for primary schools in Leicester

The poster will be used to encourage primary school children to save water, understand flooding and reduce littering

Design Brief

- The design should stand out and represent one of the three topics:
1. Flooding 2. Saving water 3. Litter & Rivers
- Each design should help people to understand the risk, benefits and what they can do to stop the problem.
- Each design should include the young person's first name, school and age (and Key stage) on the back.
- The poster design should be landscape not portrait.

Winners will have their posters printed as a banner which can be displayed at your school!



Extended deadline for entries: 5pm on the **31 January 2019**

Winning presentations: **March 2019**

Entries are to be uploaded on the Leicester Water Community website under the challenge titled "Poster Competition" or emailed to: flooding@leicester.gov.uk They can also be posted to **POWER School poster competition, City Highway Section, 90 Leycroft Road, Leicester, LE4 1BZ**

Schools are asked to send a maximum of 5 entries for both KS1 and KS2



Bake a Difference with Gingerbread

Spices like ginger and cinnamon have long been used to keep the chills at bay, but also taste delicious. These spices come from far away, such as ginger from Sri Lanka and nutmeg from India, and are often grown on small family farms, by farmers who rely on their spices to make a living. Fairtrade is helping those farmers to make a more secure living.

Last term the Fairtrade Foundation were asking to help us raise money to bring Fairtrade to more farmers and workers. This means we can challenge unfair trade and ensure farmers get to a place where they can feed and educate their children and look forward to an independent future. The education pack contains a recipe for Fairtrade gingerbread, an assembly, ideas for decorating your stall and a fun board game all about Fairtrade gingerbread.

Sandfield Close Primary School even got a special mention in their recent email bulletin for their involvement in the bake off.



Supports the global learning topic

How to find out more

Fairtrade Foundation

www.schools.fairtrade.org.uk/take-action/bake-difference-gingerbread

National School Meals week

The hall at Sandfield Close had a special makeover to celebrate the 25th anniversary of National School Meals Week. They had a rainbow of fruits and vegetables and a giant fruit bowl.

On Wednesday 14 November 2018, their catering team served a special roast dinner and welcomed a number of visitors to share lunch with them. They also included their home-grown chillies which went in the curry and their own home-grown rosemary added extra flavour to their roast potatoes. Well done everyone!



Supports the Eco-Schools healthy living topic



Leicester Parks' Anti-Graffiti Project



We are inviting 13-19 years olds in Leicester Schools to participate in a fully funded anti-graffiti project

Up to 10 schools and colleges will work with a Environmental Rangers at Leicester City Council to design and paint a mural which will cover an area of graffiti in a Leicester Park or open space



Project details

- Schools and colleges in Leicester are invited to participate with **students aged 13-19.**
- **Up to 10 schools** and educational settings can participate in this project
- The project will take place during **this academic year** (exact dates to be confirmed)
- The project will be **fully funded, however schools will need to transport students** (ideally sites will be within walking distance)
- Maximum **group size is 40 students**
- This project would be of particular interest to **art students** however it would work extremely well with an environmental group or Eco-team



Supports your Eco-Schools award 

This project is completely free and only open to ten schools

Please email Neil Harris, Environmental Ranger at Leicester City Council, Neil.Harris@leicester.gov.uk as soon as possible to confirm your interest

Eco-Schools Roadshow 2018



During November and December 2018, Leicester City Council worked closely with many organisations including Sustrans, Living Streets, Food for Life, Severn Trent and Air Quality Education to teach young children about the ways in which little steps they take can create a huge difference in saving the environment. Thank you very much to all our host schools (Soar Valley College, Rushey Mead Academy, Fullhurst College, English Martyrs' School and Moat College) and all the school staff that helped making them run so smoothly. Photos of all the roadshow dates are now on the [schools extranet](#). **Why not see if you can spot yourself?**



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

Wild About Learning

FREE printed copies of **Wild About Learning** available to every Leicester city primary school

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust's outdoor learning teachers' pack is now available in printed format.

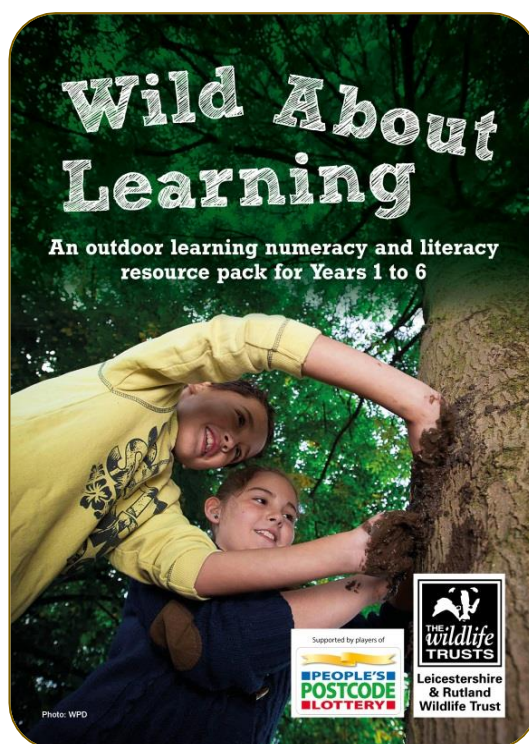
Wild About Learning is designed to support and encourage busy teachers to take their lessons outdoors.

It consists of 2 hour numeracy and literacy lesson plans for each KS1 and KS2 year group, plus links to other packs and resources.

Lesson plans have been designed to:

- Work in any school grounds
- Use commonly found natural materials
- Need minimum preparation time

We have two printed copies for every Leicester city primary school. To order your pack, please email your name and the name of your school to: mrose@lrwt.org.uk



Supports the Eco-Schools healthy living, schools grounds and biodiversity topics

Big Battery Hunt



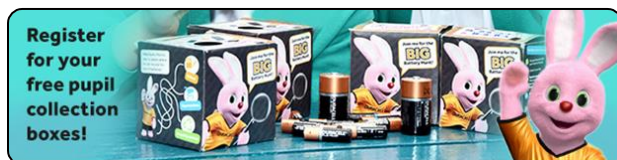
Take part in the **Big Battery Hunt** for your free pupil recycling boxes, school container and free battery collection service.

Use the [free downloadable resources](#) to teach your pupils that batteries take over 100 years to decompose! In fact, some parts of the batteries will stick around forever, so help us to stop those batteries entering landfill sites by encouraging your pupils to recycle their batteries. We will even provide a free battery collection service for your school and you could win some great prizes too!

What next?

- [Register](#) your school to receive your free collection boxes. Remember there is a box for every pupil, so let us know how many pupils you have when you register.
- Introduce the challenge to your pupils using the PowerPoint and teacher notes for your very own **launch assembly**.
- Get collecting! Encourage your pupils to collect as many used batteries as possible.
- Add your collected batteries to your school container and call **0844 800 561** for a collection. This will automatically enter your school to win great prizes such as a 2-night class trip to the Sustainability Centre, a 3-year subscription to MyMaths and £2,000 worth of school equipment vouchers!

Register your school at nationalschoolspartnership.com/initiatives/bigbatteryhunt



Supports the Eco-Schools waste topic



Africa's Gift Shoes for Africa Money for you!

Solve the perennial headache of non-uniform days, raise funds for your school and help support a charity by holding a...

Happy Feet Day

a non-uniform day for your feet!

Students attend school in their choice of footwear, whilst handing over a pair of unwanted shoes that can be used again in rural Africa.

We pay **40p per kilogram** for reusable shoes, and then transport them to Africa, where they are introduced into the communities sensitively*

We collect the shoes from school on the **Happy Feet Day**, so there are no storage problems. We weigh them and make swift payment.

All we ask is that the shoes are **clean, paired, tied and together...**

Book a date to make your feet happy!

***our focus is on empowering community members rather than perpetuating a dependency culture and we work with key personnel to make this happen.**

Find out more at www.africagift.org

AfricasGift



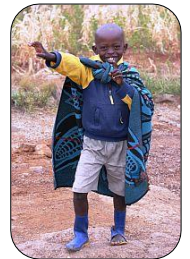
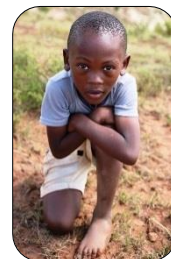
info@africagift.org



@AfricasGift



01709 717111



Next collection dates in Leicester

Friday 8 February 2019 • Thursday 23 May 2019

*Why not link to Living Streets' Happy Shoesday event in May?
As we did last year, Africa's Gift will be arranging a Leicester collection day to tie in with local Happy Shoesday events.*

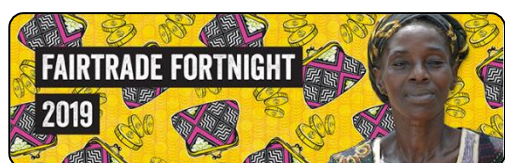
Bioblitz at Sandfield Close Primary



In November Sandfield Close Primary School participated in their very own Bioblitz. Children and parents had one hour after school to find as many different living species as they could including: birds, insects, trees and plants. Well done to everyone that were involved.



Supports the Eco-Schools biodiversity & schools grounds topics



Fairtrade Fortnight 2019

25 February – 10 March 2019

[Fairtrade Fortnight 2019](#) is fast approaching and the Fairtrade Foundation are pleased to let you know that materials are [now available to order!](#) These will be sent out from the first week of January, so if you order before then, you'll get yours at the earliest opportunity.

[Fairtrade Fortnight](#) is putting the spotlight on cocoa and is the start of a campaign to reach a living income for cocoa farmers. For schools, they have produced an [Action Guide](#) which introduces you to the theme, the reasons why they are focusing on this area and what you can do to get involved.

They are in the process of producing lots of exciting learning resources which can support your activities in school and will let you know in the new year when they are available - they will cover a range of topics from women's empowerment to the Sustainable Development Goals and the journey of cocoa from bean to bar. Order your pack online by following the links above or search for 'Fairtrade Fortnight 2019 schools pack'

Supports the Eco-Schools global citizenship topic



RHS Greening Grey Britain

This year the RHS is continuing to connect seasoned community gardeners with young green fingers in their 2019 Greening Grey Britain community support programme. The RHS is offering a number of community groups expert hands-on support, plus up to £500 worth of plants and materials (which includes schools). Groups must either take part in [Britain in Bloom](#) (at a regional or national level) or [It's Your Neighbourhood](#), be registered as an [RHS Affiliated Society](#) or be involved with the [RHS Campaign for School Gardening](#). There are 3 themes: Grow for people, Grow for the planet, Grow for wildlife. The deadline is **28 February 2019**. Follow this [link](#) or search online for 'Greening Grey Britain application'



Supports the Eco-Schools biodiversity & schools grounds topics

Fairtrade Fortnight 2019 Schools' competition

Deadline for
submission
Friday 12 April 2019

Monday 25 February - Sunday 10 March

As you start planning for Fairtrade Fortnight 2019 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 2019. Please include evidence such as photos/pupil work with your submission.

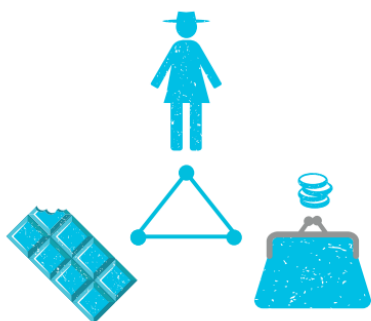
- First prize £50 voucher
- Second prize £30 voucher
- Third prize £10 voucher

Entries will be judged on impact, imagination, educational content and relevance to the theme of the year: Cocoa.

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

Lee Jowett, Leicester City Council

lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk 0116 454 2271



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

Teacher training success



**Leicestershire
& Rutland**
Wildlife Trust

The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust recently ran 4 outdoor learning twilight teacher training events at Marriott Primary School and Mellor Community Primary School. The events were part of the Wild Forest School project, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

38 motivated and enthusiastic teachers attended the events, which received very positive feedback. At both schools the training sessions were held in the outdoor classroom areas designed and created by the Trust's team of Grow Wild gardeners.

There were two events at each school, one on outdoor numeracy and one on outdoor literacy. The sessions were based on lesson plans from the Wild About Learning teachers' pack and provided inspirational and practical ideas to help teachers to take their lessons outdoors.

During the training sessions, teachers sampled many of the activities from the pack, covering key areas of study. The idea was to show busy teachers that taking their numeracy and literacy lessons outdoors doesn't need to require lengthy planning and that they can be delivered with natural resources found in any school playground.

The Trust would like to run 4 more training events in spring/summer 2019, particularly in Evington Valley Primary School, Sparkenhoe Primary School, Merrydale Junior School and Shaftsbury Junior School. So if you are a member of staff from any of these schools and would like to make this happen, please get in touch with Martha! mrose@lrwt.org.uk



Supports the
Eco-Schools
School
grounds topic

Supported by players of



Big Schools' Birdwatch

Inspire your class with Big Schools' Birdwatch 2019

Every year, educators from every corner of the UK take part, turning their classes into conservation scientists and helping us track the ups and downs of birds across the country. Registration is open and you can submit your results from the **2 January 19 - 22 February 19**. After this we'll share the results of your surveys so your class can see how their research is contributing.

Request your pack now at

www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/schools-birdwatch

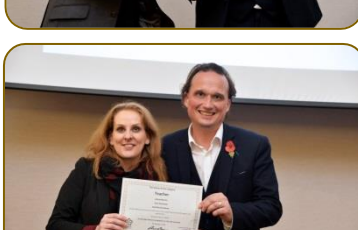
Sustainable Schools Celebration



Our first Sustainable Schools Celebration evening, an opportunity to celebrate the dedication and commitment of staff, students, parents, and volunteers to improve our environment, health and wellbeing in schools in Leicester, took place on Tuesday 30 October 2018.

Nominees were selected by members of the environment, health and wellbeing group. The group is made up of nearly 50 professionals, who work within Leicester City Council, or organisations that provide environmental or health services to schools in partnership with the council. Many members of the group will be attending the evening.

We were very pleased to welcome Cllr Adam Clarke, Deputy City Mayor, responsible for environment, health and health integration and Jeanette Orrey MBE, co-founder of Food for Life, who gave our keynote speech for the evening.





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

Overall - Environment, Health and Wellbeing School of the year	Bridge Junior School	
Overall - Individual of the year	Michelle Forbes	Belgrave St Peter's Primary School
Overall - Individual of the year	Charlie Goode	Childrens Hospital School
Premises Officer/Site Supervisor	Bhav Chauhan	Mellor Primary School
Senior Leader	Peter Driver	Bridge Junior School
Teacher	Sera Shortland	Hamilton Academy
Teacher	Sarah Eames	Sandfield Close Primary School
Teaching Assistant	Charlie Goode	Childrens Hospital School
Parent	Ben Brown	Mayflower Primary School
Volunteer	Sue Barnes	Parks Primary School
Primary Student	Children from Coleman Primary School and Mayflower Primary School	
Community and Parental Engagement Champion	Sofina Haris, Keerti Chauhan and Asifa Narma	Bridge Junior School
Team of the Year	Shaftesbury Junior School - SNAG/Eco Team	
Growing Champion	Sarah Hearn	Rolleston Primary School
Litter champion	Lynne Burns	Soar Valley College
Health and wellbeing champion	Lisa Agbanusi	St Patricks Primary School
Mental Health Champion	The Team at Eyres Monsell	Eyres Monsell Primary School
Sustrans Champion	Anne Scott & Steve Massey	Overdale Junior School
Sustrans School of the Year	Mellor Primary School	Mellor Primary School
Global Learning Champion	Hannah Boydon	Mayflower Primary School
Walk to School Champion	Alison Alton	Queensmead Primary Academy
Walk to School - School of the Year	Caldecote Primary School	
Food for Life Champion	Slater Primary School	
Oral Health Champion	Scraftoft Valley Primary School	
Forest School Champion	Hannah Jefferies & Adam Cleaver	Hazel Primary School
Sports Leader of the Year	Rachel Mee	St Mary's Fields Primary School
Recycling Champion of the Year	Liberty Bradley	Catherine Junior School
Reducing Champion of the Year	Rachel Thornton, Katie Dodd & Liz Hewitt	Christ the King Primary School
Healthy Eating Champion	Jody Gemmell	Sandfield Close Primary School
Biodiversity Champion	Rebecca Richardson	Scraftoft Valley Primary School
Energy Champion	Sue Pears	Avenue Primary School
Cooking Champion	Karen Cooper	Overdale Junior School
Pastoral Champion	Michelle Forbes	Belgrave St Peter's Primary School



The Big Spring Clean and Litter Less



Supports the *Eco-Schools* litter topic

Keep Britain Tidy want to inspire half a million people to join forces to clear single-use plastic litter from our streets, parks and beaches, recycling as much as possible.

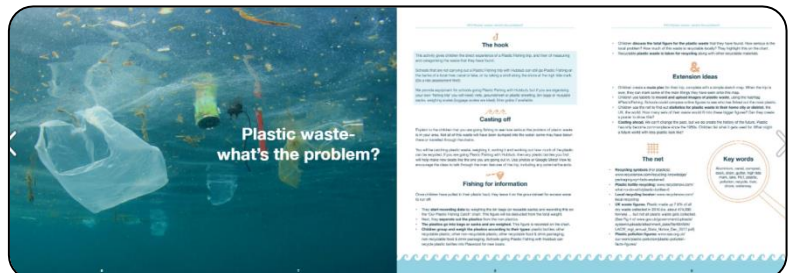
They'll be counting on you to help make the Great British Spring Clean 2019 the country's biggest ever mass-action environmental campaign.

Stand by for more information on how you can get involved in 2019 - whether you want to host a clean-up, join a clean-up, or pledge to do your own thing, they've got you covered. *Website registrations will open in January, with clean-ups taking place across the country from 22 March – 23 April 2019.*

Until then, start spreading the word as we prepare to stand together and declare that litter – that degrades the beauty of our environment and threatens to harm wildlife – is not acceptable.

As part of Leicester's commitment we will be taking part in the Leicester Litter Less campaign with over 30 schools out litter picking on their final litter pick. Over the next few months our schools will be carrying out litter picks on over a 100 metres from the school gates. We will be celebrating in Abbey Park on Friday 22 March 2019 – hopefully better weather than last year! **Don't forget even if you aren't a litter less school you can still take part in the Great British Spring Clean**

Plastic Fishing KS2 Education Kit



Look for marine topic resources? There is an excellent resource and video from ['Plastic Fishing'](#) available online

Grow wildflowers this Spring!



Do you want to **apply for a wildflower seed kit**, learn about Spring sowing and how to transform a shared space with UK native wildflowers? You're in the right place! **Fill in the Grow Wild form [online](#)** and in March 2019 we'll take you on a **growing journey**.

It only takes a moment and, with a bit of good fortune, your home, school, workplace or community group will have **more colour and wildlife** next Spring and into Summer. [Find out more.](#)



www.growwilduk.com/form/grow-wildflowers-us-spring



Supports the Eco-Schools biodiversity topic



Starfish at New Walk Museum!

During November 2018, schools from all over Leicester and Leicestershire showcased starfish as part of a project delivered by the Education Department at the University of Leicester.

It was a fantastic experience and in total there were over 8500 starfish made by EYFS children in the display.



Free trees for schools planting

Enstruct Training is working in partnership with Trees for Cities this Winter, involving children with planting trees in school grounds. Would you like your school to be involved? It won't cost the school anything at all – the trees and instruction are fully funded and all tools, equipment, and risk/benefit assessments will be provided.

Planting days start with an assembly about the importance of trees then each class comes outside for about 40 minutes and every child can be involved with the planting. The trees are currently about 20cm tall and will "wear" plastic guards for the first 3 years or so.

If your school already has a wooded area which is used regularly, you may like to consider extending it to allow for rotation in the future. If you can set aside a tennis court-sized area (of any shape, including a row along a fence line,) to be a Forest of the Future and commit to leaving it there then do let Enstruct know ASAP.

How to find out more

Bethan, Enstruct Training

☎ 07398 777691

✉ bethan@enstructtraining.co.uk



Supports the Eco-Schools school grounds and biodiversity topics

EDI_net schools competition winners



Thank you to all those schools that participated in the EDI_net school competition before the Christmas break. We had some very positive feedback and lots of ideas to further develop opportunities to use the system. The entire month winner was Mellor Primary School.

The 'World Cup Winner' was also Mellor Primary School, very closely followed by St Joseph's Primary School and Granby Primary School.

The winners of daily competitions were:

- Thursday 29 November – Coleman Primary School
- Tuesday 4 December – Coleman Primary School
- Friday 14 December – Mellor Primary School

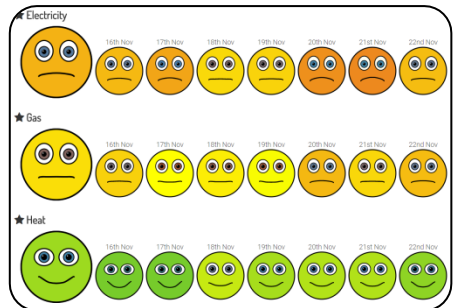
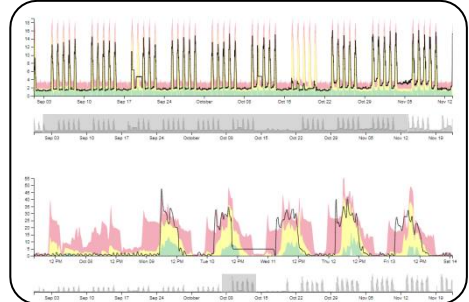
The top 40 schools will receive certificates for participation, along with the winners above.

How to find out more

Lee Jowett

☎ 0116 454 2271

✉ lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk



Supports the Eco-Schools energy topic



A Recycled Christmas at Shaftesbury Juniors

In December Shaftesbury Junior School went all out with their recycling by each class decorating their own Christmas tree with decorations made from recycled materials. They also made amazing Christmas Chandelier decorations for the main hall. Here are just a few examples of their amazing work! Well done everyone!



Supports the Eco-Schools waste topics





Where printed, on 100% recycled paper made from post-consumer waste