



# Leicester news

April 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 April Leicester Eco-Schools newsletter. As always it's a busy term coming up after Easter and only a 4 week half term! Now is the time to start applying for your Green Flag Award (if you are ready) to ensure that you are visited by an assessor before the end of term. We have our annual celebration in June at De Montfort University (DMU) and also supporting to host an international outdoor learning and school grounds conference here in Leicester. Take a look at the flyers and why not sign up to both. We also celebrated our amazing Litter Less Leicester gigantic litter pick in Abbey Park. Take a look at the photos inside. **As always if need any support, just let me know, Lee.**



## How to find out more



Lee Jowett

Environmental Education Coordinator

Phoenix House, King Street, Leicester LE1 6RN

✉ [Lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk)

[www.schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools](http://www.schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools)

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

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

☎ 0116 454 2271



Our 2019 Litter Less Campaign

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](http://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 28 June 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](mailto:eco-schools@leicester.gov.uk)

*Since January 2019*

### **Recently registered or re-engaged**

Spinney Hill Primary School  
Uplands Infant School

### **Bronze**

Barley Croft Primary School  
Braunstone Primary School  
Ellesmere College  
Mowmacre Hill Primary School  
Nether Hall School  
St Barnabas C of E Primary School  
Woodstock Primary Academy

### **Silver**

*West Gate School*

**Correct as of 06/04/2019**



These fantastic photos are from Nether Hall Special School that recently constructed their raised bed from Eco-bricks. It will now be used to grow herbs and vegetables in.

# Litter Less Leicester 2019



Thank you to so many schools that participated in the Litter Less Campaign this year. We had over 250 students and staff that descend on Abbey Park on the first day of the Great Big School Clean. During the last several months over 30 schools have been litter picking in and around their local school community.

Over 750kg of litter were collected, raising awareness of the problem of litter and how we can all make a difference. There are already stories of schools that are continuing to carry out weekly litter picks and Willowbrook Primary Academy wrote to the City Mayor to raise his awareness of the problems.

All the photos of the celebration in Abbey Park can be found on our [Facebook page](#). Below are a selection of the photos from an amazing day. Well done to everyone and keep up the fantastic work! We really are making a difference.



Supports the Eco-Schools  
litter topic



LITTER LESS  
CAMPAIGN

# Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration 2019

Deadline for  
school entry  
31 May 2019

Friday 14 June 2019 • Students' Union, De Montfort University, Leicester

Celebrate the work that your school has completed this year by attending the now annual Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration. Bring along up to 5 students to display your Eco-Schools and/or your Food for Life project. Receive your Food for Life award as well as the Healthier Air for Schools Award.



Schools can display 2 Eco-Schools topics, 1 of which can include your Food for Life project. As a reminder, the Eco-Schools topics are:

- Biodiversity
- Energy
- Litter
- Waste
- Transport
- Water
- School Grounds
- Healthy Living
- Global Citizenship
- Marine



Entries for the Eco-School Awards will be categorised by the school's level of Eco-School award rather than by topic.

Food for Life awards will be judged separately and will be a demonstration of work completed so far on the Food for Life journey.



All schools will also be entered into the:

- Judge's Special Award
- Eco-factor Award (voted by students)

The event will run from 9.30am - 2pm.

*Schools are asked to bring packed lunches with them.*

Schools will be asked to provide brief information about their display before the day.



For more information and to book your school place contact:

Lee Jowett, Leicester City Council

[lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk) 0116 454 2271

Lisa Didier, Soil Association Food for Life

[ldidier@soilassociation.org](mailto:ldidier@soilassociation.org) 07718 570945

Healthier  
**AIR**  
for Leicester



Awards kindly supported by



# Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration 2019

Friday 14 June 2019 • Students' Union, De Montfort University, Leicester

## Additional Food for Life information

You are invited to attend this event to demonstrate the work you have completed so far on your Food for Life Journey.



You can showcase work towards your Bronze or Silver award or you can show a way you have improved an area of the following in school:

- How you used Food for Life to raise attainment
- How Food for Life has been integrated across the school in a whole school approach
- Increased school meal take up
- The good work of your SNAG and pupil voice
- Show the ethos of healthy eating across the school
- Show the improvement in cooking in the curriculum
- Food growing in school
- Demonstrate how you improved the dining room environment

If you would like to achieve Bronze or Silver by the time this event takes place please contact Lisa Didier. If you would like to display your work from the above categories, then a Certificate will be presented for your work and you will also be achieving criteria B4.2 for their bronze award "we share Food for Life learning with local schools, the wider community and other partners".



Lisa Didier, Soil Association Food for Life  
[ldidier@soilassociation.org](mailto:ldidier@soilassociation.org) 07718 570945

Awards kindly supported by



# #EcoTeachMeet Leicester

## Tuesday 21 May 2019



### Mayflower Primary School, Leicester, LE5 5PH

Tuesday 21 May 2019 4.00-5.30pm  
*Refreshments from 3.30pm*

**Presentations from colleagues on the impact of environmental education, projects and activities** and an opportunity to see Mayflower's award winning gardens and outdoor spaces

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

All school staff and organisations welcome! Book your place now:  
[SpringEcoTeachMeet19.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spring-eco-teach-meet-2019-tickets-4814229271)

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

[Lee.Jowett@Leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Lee.Jowett@Leicester.gov.uk) or 0116 454 2271



Scan me



@EcoSchoolsLCC

[schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools](https://schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools)

7,000 spaces  
£3.60 (inc VAT)  
per child



Book now to  
avoid  
disappointment  
01733 363514

# Food & Farming Day

Friday 28 June 2019

East of England Showground, Peterborough, PE2 6XE



“Wow, what an amazing day we all had. The children were buzzing and fully engaged in the learning experiences for the whole day, they didn’t want to leave. The Kids Country team are dedicated to making learning fun and accessible. We can’t wait for next year’s Food and Farming Day!” -

Croyland Primary School

# What's on Offer?

The Kids Country Food & Farming Day aims to teach children where food comes from and the importance of agriculture and the countryside, through interactive learning experiences

Just £3.60 (inc VAT) per child



“The day was excellent for our SEN students, they enjoyed the interactive activities such as planting seeds, exploring vegetables through touch and being able to climb into a combine harvester. It’s educational and entertaining.” - Garth CIT



Huge range of activities designed to ensure a fun and interactive learning experience



Hands-on demonstrations and talks from leading industry suppliers and experts in the field



Children can engage with livestock, learn new skills and understand the farm to fork adventure



Exciting competitions to enter



Event incorporates key elements of the national curriculum for Key Stages 1 and 2



Associated project work is available for classroom preparation and follow up



Use the above QR code to watch a short video of our 2018 Food & Farming Day.

**Book now to avoid disappointment!**

Email: [slauridsen@eastofengland.org.uk](mailto:slauridsen@eastofengland.org.uk)

Tel: 01733 363514





**LET'S  
WALK TO  
SCHOOL**

# **Join in with Happy Shoesday**

## **Tuesday 21 May 2019**

Happy Shoesday is Living Streets Annual Fundraising Event – taking place on the Tuesday of Walk to School Week. Children and grown-ups wear the shoes that make them happiest, helping us create safer, more walkable streets for all.

By taking part, your school can reduce congestion and pollution around school gates, while raising vital fund for Living Streets charitable work to create safer streets.



### **How it Works:**

- 1. Sign up** for a free school resource pack and we'll send you everything you need to make running the day as easy and fun as possible.
- 2. Pick a date** The national day takes place within Walk to School Week on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May but choose another date if it suits your school timetable better.
- 3. Get thinking** about what happy shoes to wear – a favourite pair or ones that have been decorated.
- 4. Have a super Happy Shoesday!** Encourage families to walk, scoot, cycle or park and stride to school, wear their happy shoes, and make a suggested £1 donation for Living Streets. Use our classroom activity ideas throughout the day.

**Sign up at [www.livingstreets.org.uk/happyshoesday](http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/happyshoesday)**

Contact [darren.cashin@livingstreets.org.uk](mailto:darren.cashin@livingstreets.org.uk) if you have any questions.

Last year some Leicester schools linked Happy Shoesday to Africa's Gift Shoes for Africa project (see enclosed letter for details). Families could donate either a pair of unwanted shoes or the suggested £1, with funds raised from both methods going to Living Streets.



## Why join in with Happy Shoesday?

Remind families that your school is committed to reducing cars outside the school gates in order to create a happy, healthy and safer walk to school with fewer traffic jams, potential collisions and toxic air.

*Taking part supports schools running Living Streets' WOW challenge or working towards Eco-Schools awards, Healthy Schools or the Leicester Healthier Air Award.*

Last Happy Shoesday, thousands of children and grown-ups around the country (including schools in Leicester) wore their happy shoes. Their participation, support and donations were invaluable and helped us raise over £25K for our charitable work to create safer streets. You can see how your fundraising helps at [www.livingstreets.org.uk/happyshoesday](http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/happyshoesday)

**[www.livingstreets.org.uk/happyshoesday](http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/happyshoesday)**





# 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.africasgift.org](http://www.africasgift.org)

AfricasGift



[info@africasgift.org](mailto:info@africasgift.org)



@AfricasGift



01709 717111



Why not link to Living Streets' Happy Shoesday event in May?  
As we did last year, Africa's Gift has arranged a Leicester collection day to tie in with local Happy Shoesday events. *Email or phone Ken at Africa's Gift to book your collection.*

# Tree Aid



Supports the global learning topic

Tree Aid is a charity that works with communities in the drylands of Africa and Ethiopia to help families lift themselves out of poverty and protect the environment using the power of trees. We work with local communities to help them protect and grow trees, for themselves and for future generations. The people we work with live in some of the toughest conditions on earth and trees are essential to their survival. Trees provide nutrition, generate income and help to create a healthy environment.

Our website has lots of materials that you could use – including free classroom resources, fundraising pack and short films. [www.treeaid.org.uk](http://www.treeaid.org.uk)

Your school can help a woman grow her way out of poverty with the training and tools she needs to make money from trees. All money raised between 1 April and 30 June will be doubled by the UK government. Match funding from the UK government will be used to help 1,000 women in Mali to grow their way out of poverty using the power of trees. Your donation will fund similar work helping communities across the drylands of Africa.



## How to find out more Tree Aid Supporters Team

✉ [info@treeaid.org](mailto:info@treeaid.org)

☎ 0117 9096363

🌐 [www.treeaid.org.uk](http://www.treeaid.org.uk)



Supports the Eco-Schools  
healthy living topic

# The Big Dig



The Big Dig is an online platform to support food growing in the UK, run by Sustain. The Big Dig Day is taking place on **Saturday 27 April 2019** across the UK; we are inviting edible gardens to open their doors to volunteers and the community to mark the start of the growing season, promote their gardens and encourage people to volunteer. The Big Dig Day started in London 8 years ago and over the years more cities and local areas have got involved in the day and the network. This year we would love to get Veg Cities and SFC members involved and a lot more cities and local areas participating.

## Why join the Big Dig?

For individual gardens, the **Big Dig network** can help promote your garden, recruit volunteers and measure how much you are growing (and money you're saving). For a local area, the Big Dig can help you facilitate and manage a network of growing spaces, map edible gardens in your area and promote the importance of food growing to policy-makers and the public. All gardens can join The **Big Dig Day** alongside hundreds of gardens and thousands of visitors and volunteers.

## How to find out more

The Big Dig

✉ [bigdig@sustainweb.org](mailto:bigdig@sustainweb.org)

☎ 0203 5596 777

🌐 [www.bigdig.org.uk](http://www.bigdig.org.uk)



# Bright Green Future



Supports many of the  
Eco-Schools topics

**Bright Green Future looking for young people aged 14-17, with an interest in the environment and climate change, to take part in a year-long programme starting in September 2019.**

Joining Bright Green Future will help young people to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to embark on a career path which could influence decisions on energy and climate change, and really make a difference to our planet! For an idea of what previous cohorts have been up to and for more information about the programme see [this page](#) on our website.

As part of the programme, participants will carry out activities including:

- **Local projects** – running simple low carbon projects in their local community such as a school eco-day or green week, draught-proofing workshop, energy auditing, renewable energy assessments, litter picking, film nights, lightbulb swaps and more
- **Residential course** – a four-day summer school to meet other participants and take part in workshops, talks and hands-on activities
- **Training & learning** – both face-to-face and online training sessions exploring energy, sustainability, and how to influence decision-making
- **Work placement** – a ‘policy and influence’ work-placement or work shadowing opportunity at a professional organisation which influences local or national policy such as a local authority, a governmental agency, or an environmental and landscape planning body (including our partner organisation, the Town and Country Planning Association)
- **Mentoring** – help and support throughout the programme from a member of staff at the Centre for Sustainable Energy

Bright Green Future is being run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), an established and respected energy charity with a huge range of experience in delivering projects that involve helping households to lower their energy use, addressing fuel poverty, supporting community energy, influencing energy policy, research projects, and much more. CSE staff will be on hand to support and mentor participants throughout the duration of the programme.

This exciting opportunity is [open for registration now](#) until **17th June** (though early bird applications are welcome). The application form is available on our website.

## How to find out more

Bright Green Future

✉ [bgf@cse.org.uk](mailto:bgf@cse.org.uk)

☎ 0117934 1400

🐦 [BrightGrnFuture](#)

🌐 [www.bright-green-future.org.uk](http://www.bright-green-future.org.uk)



# Beat the Street!



Beat the Street Leicester is a fun, free game that has seen Leicester transformed into a giant game! Funded by Leicester City Council, and Sport England (National Lottery Funding) and delivered by Intelligent Health, the game is focused around getting people active and changing behaviours to physical activity. Run over 6 weeks, the game challenges the community to see how far they can walk, cycle or run during the 6 weeks and the element of competition enables individuals and teams to collect points as they participate to battle it out for the top spots on the leader board and be in with a chance of winning some prizes. Since the launch on the March 13, we have had a fantastic start with over 9,000 participants taking part.

We have just completed week 3 of the game and we are entering into week 4. We have had some great feedback from children, parents, schools and the local community about how they are enjoying the game and has made getting outside more exciting. Working with Leicester City Council's Environmental Education Coordinator, we have manage to get many primary schools participating in this exciting game.

Beat the Street Leicester Highlights so far:

- 39,118 miles covered by through walking, cycling, running
- 9,129 engaged active players
- 2569 registered players
- 74,899 journeys undertaken
- 19 primary schools fully participating
- 12 community teams set up and participating
- Led 3 community walks
- Delivered 4 Beat the Street engagement events to promote outdoor gyms and 1000 tweak campaign



*Supports the transport and healthy living Eco-Schools topics*

## How to find out more

Beat the Streets

✉ [June.gomes@intelligenthealth.co.uk](mailto:June.gomes@intelligenthealth.co.uk)

🐦 [BTSLeicester](https://twitter.com/BTSLeicester)

🌐 [beatthestreet.me/Leicester](http://beatthestreet.me/Leicester)



# Leicester Schools Linking Project



The Leicester Schools Linking Project enables young people to meet others from a different community who they may not meet during their normal day to day lives. Through the simple act of working and playing together, stereotypes and prejudices are challenged.

The project carefully prepares the young people through school based work and a "neutral venue" meeting before the young people, staff and parent volunteers spend a day at each other's school working, eating and playing together. The links are embedded further with more visits, letter writing, shared social action projects, emails, video messages etc. The project is an excellent opportunity for really purposeful writing. The hope is that through these friendships, a sense of a shared Leicester identity will be formed, reflecting the words of Jo Cox ... "we are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us".

In our first year, 2019-20 we had 18 classes involved from 11 city and county schools, both secondary and primary. We are now accepting new schools for 2019-20. We are currently jointly funded by [The Linking Network](#) and Leicester City Council.



*Supports the global learning  
Eco-Schools topics*



## How to find out more

Ruth Sinhal

✉ [schools.linking@stphilipscentre.co.uk](mailto:schools.linking@stphilipscentre.co.uk)

🐦 [LinkingSchool](#)

🌐 [www.thelinkingnetwork.org.uk](http://www.thelinkingnetwork.org.uk)



The Linking  
Network

## Air Quality Education 2019



The Air Quality Education Programme is back for the 2019-20 academic year and we are now looking to recruit 15 new schools (any Leicester school). Next year you can work towards the Healthier Air for Leicester Schools award, explore our free outdoor and classroom air pollution themed lessons, trial our Education Pack and develop a pupil led campaign to help tackle air pollution around school. This project perfectly accompanies work you may already be doing with Eco-Schools as a great project for either the Healthy Living or Transport topics. Email [danielle.kennell@leicester.go.uk](mailto:danielle.kennell@leicester.go.uk) by 31 May 2019, to book a short meeting to discuss how your school can participate.



*Supports the healthy living  
and transport Eco-Schools topics*

# Practical Action – Solar Challenge

PRACTICAL ACTION

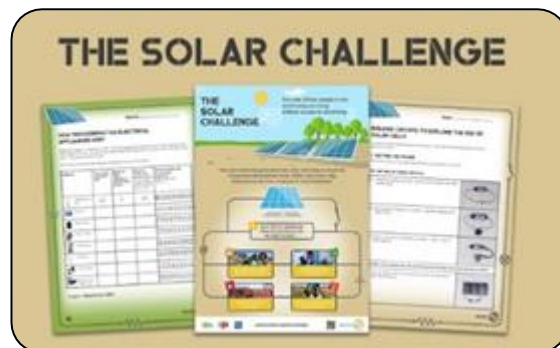


Bring a bit of sunshine into your STEM subjects or curriculum enrichment days this year with our new SOLAR Challenge and linked Off-Grid! Design competition. Suitable for pupils aged 8-14 our latest STEM challenge sets the topic of electricity in a real life global context. It enables pupils to learn how solar energy can transform the lives of people living 'off-grid' and challenges them to make recommendations on the use of electricity for a community in Zimbabwe from a limited supply of solar cells. Pupils can also gain a CREST Discovery Award.

Running until June 2019, Off Grid! Design Competition is an exciting opportunity for young people ages 8-14 years to extend their work on the Solar Challenge.

Practical Action will award the winning primary and secondary school a £100 worth of STEM kits, each pupil in the winning team will receive a £10 voucher and STEM book.

Further details: [practicalaction.org/solar-challenge](http://practicalaction.org/solar-challenge)



*Supports the Eco-Schools energy and global learning 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](http://nationalschoolspartnership.com/initiatives/bigbatteryhunt)



*Supports the Eco-Schools waste topic*



# Wrap, Splat, Hat is back!



What better way to usher in the sun than by getting your school involved in a sun awareness project! As a loyal National Schools Partnership teacher we also wanted to give you a head start: Sign-up before Easter to be one of the first 2,000 schools to register and receive 240 free pupil passports\*\* full of fun games and puzzles!

We're also happy to announce that our resources are now SEN friendly, having been produced in association with NASEN. Check out how activity ideas can be adapted to suit all your pupils.



Find out more at

[nationalschoolpartnership.com/initiatives/wrap-splat-hat](http://nationalschoolpartnership.com/initiatives/wrap-splat-hat)

*Supports the Eco-Schools healthy living topic*



## Eco-Schools Outdoor Learning Success



The Wilko School Grounds Project is having a fantastic 2019 so far, with some great achievements already! All of the 5 schools taking part in the project have achieved their Bronze Eco-schools award, which is amazing in such a short space of time. We have also been dreaming big for their school grounds to include sensory gardens and pathways, creative spaces, willow domes and for some of our schools making an area which was previously inaccessible, a usable space for outdoor learning. In fact, some schools are well on their way to achieving this dream thanks to the amazing work of the Princes Trust TEAM program who chose the School Grounds Project as their community work project and spent all of half-term volunteering in Woodstock Primary Academy and Ellesmere College. Using the Wilko Maintenance kit, which provided all the tools we could possibly need, they managed to do a tremendous amount of work in both schools. At Woodstock Primary Academy the team transformed a worn-down and disused area which the children from KS1 looked onto from their classrooms into an area the Eco-committee are now using to plant fruits, vegetables and herbs using their Wilko Healthy Living kit.



Before

After

*Supports the Eco-Schools school grounds topic*



# Update from LEAF Education



- **Face time a Farmer** - it's fun, its free and its flexible! so if you are a teacher or a farmer get signed up now. More info: [facetimeafarmer](#)
- **Drones the farmers of the future** - A competition for secondary schools, win a residential stay at Llysfasi college in Wales. More info: [Food-farming-and-environment-competition-2019](#)
- **Bayer LEAF farmer awards** - Nominate farmers you know that are doing great work with schools. More info: [Awards](#)

*Supports the Eco-Schools healthy living topic*



## January #EcoTeachMeet Success



In January we hosted our second #EcoTeachMeet of the year. We have over 40 people attend a very busy and successful #EcoTeachMeet at English Martyrs School in Leicester. Presentations came from a diverse group of people including WE, ASE, Nether Hall School, Severn Trent, TCV and Eco-Schools. All the presentation and further information can be found on the schools extranet website. Our next #EcoTeachMeet will take place at Mayflower Primary on the 21 May 2019. Book now via the flyer link.

*Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics*



## Plastic Investigators - Solve the nation's plastic problem

Welcome to the **Plastic Investigators (PI) Club**, where we're asking you and your pupils to help solve the country's plastic problem. You could win a massive **£20,000 for your school**. The **PI Club** provides you with amazing, curriculum linked resources for ages 9-11. Your pupils will complete their missions by filling in their special agent handbooks. Once they're done, they can enter the competition.

Click register to access the downloadable resources. The first 1000 schools will receive a printed briefing pack. Email entries to [competitions@nationalschoolspartnership.com](mailto:competitions@nationalschoolspartnership.com) or use the free post label provided by Wednesday 24th July



Visit [nationalschoolspartnership.com/initiatives/plastic-investigators](http://nationalschoolspartnership.com/initiatives/plastic-investigators) for more info



*Supports the Eco-Schools marine and Waste topics*

# Healthy Schools Network



## Healthy Schools Network: Healthy Eating Network Meeting

Thursday 23rd May 2019, 3.30pm – 5.30pm at SDSA, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Alliance House, 6 Bishop Street, Leicester LE1 6AF. Confirmed input from Leicester Tigers and Healthy Eating 4 Schools. A great opportunity to network with other schools. This meeting is open to HSN Members (included in membership fee) and Non-Members (£25+VAT) – to book a place please visit <https://hsnmeeting-healthyeating.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Healthy Schools Network 2019/20

The Healthy Schools Network team are currently planning the 2019/20 programme of activities and information will be sent out to schools at the end of the academic year. The programme will include Health and Wellbeing Champions' Conferences, Network Meetings, opportunities for training, the chance to work towards an Award by completing a self-assessment and action planning workbook focussing on a Whole School Approach.

## How to find out more

Rebecca Partington

✉ [Rebecca.Partington@sdsa.net](mailto:Rebecca.Partington@sdsa.net)

🐦 [LeicesterHS](#) #LeicesterHealthySchools

🌐 [healthyschoolsnetwork.co.uk](http://healthyschoolsnetwork.co.uk)

Supports the Eco-Schools healthy living topic



# Grants and funding opportunities

## [Nature Grants for Schools](#)

Schools in England, Scotland and Wales are being invited to apply for up to £500 worth of free outdoor equipment and two hours of professional outdoor training as part of the third instalment of Local School Nature Grants. Schools can choose from over 100 different products to deliver outdoor learning and play. The funding is being made available through the charity Learning through Landscapes Local School Nature Grant scheme. The charity has been helping schools across Great Britain since 2017. Funded by the players of People's Postcode Lottery, the grants have so far provided £900,000 worth of equipment to 800 schools. This year it will reach a further 500 schools. There will be four funding rounds throughout the year and the first closing date for applications is the 26th April 2019.

## [Tree Futures Grant Opens for Application](#)

The Tree Council's Tree Futures Grant scheme has just opened. This scheme replaces the three separate programmes previously available i.e. Trees for Schools, Community Trees and Orchard Windfalls and includes a new category, hedgerow planting, for the first time. Grants of 80% of the costs for projects costing between £300 and £1000 are available. The remaining 20% can come from the applicant organisations own funds, county, district or borough councils. Grants can cover the purchase of trees, hedges and orchard trees plus reasonable costs of stakes, ties, guards, fertiliser, mulch or soil amelioration. The closing date for applications is 5pm on the 17th May 2019.



Supports the Eco-Schools school grounds and biodiversity Topics

**7**  
**UK Cities**

**150+**  
**Worldwide**

**7+**  
**Continents**

**Leicester 26 – 29 April**

**Be part of a global challenge to see which city can record the most species of plants and animals**



For more information and download the app  
[www.naturespot.org.uk/citynaturechallenge](http://www.naturespot.org.uk/citynaturechallenge)

**Individuals and families** - Friday 26 - Sunday 28 April (*during the Easter holidays*) encourage your children and families to participate in their own gardens and parks.

**Schools** – Monday 29 April – take your Eco-Schools team or class out to record species in your school grounds or local park. Any school that participate will be entered into a prize draw to receive a **insect workshop from a wildlife specialist.**

**This is a great project to support your Eco-Schools work (monitoring as well as informing and involving the whole school)**

Make observations on your own or identify species using the iNaturalist app (a free download from app stores). Create an account on the app (this can be a whole school login) then upload your photo. The app will attempt to recognise the species through photo recognition and also use GPS to identify we are in Leicester.



**#CityNatureChallengeLeicester**



# KS2 short story writing competition

Enter Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust's short story writing competition and get the chance to win some top wildlife themed prizes for your school!

## 1st Prize

A storytelling chair and storytelling area for your school grounds



## 2nd Prize

A bespoke wildlife themed story trail for your school grounds



## 3rd Prize

12 wildlife themed fiction and non-fiction books for your school library

## The rules

- Leicester City primary schools only
- For KS2 children from Years 3 - 6
- Story must be UK wildlife themed - so featuring UK plants or trees or animals (big or small)
- Length should be a maximum of one typed A4 page (or 500 words)

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust  
The Old Mill, 9 Soar Lane, Leicester LE3 5DE  
t: 0116 262 9968  
Registered Charity Number: 210531



## To Enter

Closing date is Friday 7 June 2019.  
Download an entry form and read the full list of Terms and Conditions:

[www.wildforestschoo.org.uk/competition](http://www.wildforestschoo.org.uk/competition)

Send entries by email to: [mrose@lrwt.org.uk](mailto:mrose@lrwt.org.uk) along with the entry form.



Are you a conservation or wildlife professional,  
gardener or educator?

*Come and join us at*

## **Wildlife and School Grounds Conference**

- ✓ Be inspired by Europe-wide **wildlife projects in school grounds**
- ✓ Take part in **practical workshops** run by Learning through Landscapes, RSPB and the Wildlife Trusts along with others
- ✓ Network with **specialists and enthusiasts** in the industry

### **Keynotes include**

*Dr Steve Head*, Ecologist and Chairman of the  
UK Gardening for Wildlife Forum

*Sarah Brady*, Education Manager Birdlife Malta

*Susie Smith*, Development Manager Learning through Landscapes

Whether you are urban or rural we can all support learning through nature to inspire,  
equip and empower individuals and communities to live sustainably.

Leicester City Hall  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
**BOOK NOW**

For more information and to book your FREE place

### **BOOK NOW**

Email: [enquiries@ltl.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ltl.org.uk)

Call: 01962 846258



# Riverbank Party at Highfields

Schools from Highfields and Spinney Hills area of the city have been learning all about the impact of inappropriate feeding of our river wildlife and the tremendous impact it has on their growth and development. A theatrical drama performance entitled The Riverbank Party was delivered to over 1500 primary and junior aged children over a week long period.

The performance focuses on educating our future generation on the growing issue of inappropriate food and associated offerings being thrown into our watercourses, by highlighting the consequences of human activity on aquatic wildlife. Its aim is to educate young people who will be encouraged to spread the word to their families and the wider community. Follow up sessions in school will be used to emphasise the key points and to ensure that learning has taken place, the messages correctly conveyed.

The project forms a part of Leicester City Council's "Shared Waters" initiative which, each year, in partnership with the Environment Agency undertakes a series of project activities related to Leicester's urban water environment. The story and performance of Izzy the Brown Rat and her riparian friends was written and directed by Leicester's Environmental Rangers, Peter Flavel and Vicky Salloway.

Alison Baker, Environment Programme Manager at the Environment Agency, said: "This partnership project with Leicester City Council works with the council's volunteer programme to deliver activities on the city's watercourses with the aim of tackling urban pollution. The drama performances worked extremely well at highlighting the devastating effects of water pollution and served to educate Leicester primary schoolchildren who in turn can help educate their families."



Supports the Eco-Schools marine and water topics



# POWER Banner Competition Winners

**Thank you to all schools that entered the POWER Banner Competition.**

Judging was very difficult as all entries covered at least 1 of the 3 water topics (Flooding, Saving Water and Plastic and Litter), had large amounts of detail, artistic flare and beautiful colour schemes. The panel of judges was made up of representatives from De Montfort University and Leicester City Council's; flooding, parks and education teams.

**Congratulations to students from:**

- **Church Hill C of E Junior School**
- **Dovelands Primary School**
- **Inglehurst Junior School**



The winning entries have been converted into banners, which are currently on display in Watermead Country Park, Abbey Park, Humberstone Park, Spinney Hills Park, Westcotes Park on a 3 week rotation up until mid-June

Winning banners were awarded at this year's Great Big School Clean event in Abbey Park on the 22 June 2019. Read the [De Montfort University news article](#) for the "Litter Less" Great Big School Clean event.

**A digital exhibition of all competition entries will be available on the Leicester Water Community website under the "POWER Banner Competition" for view by all**



**Judges from Leicester City Council and De Montfort University, Filbert Fox and winners from Dovelands Primary School**

The Leicester Water Community can be accessed via the [POWER-H2020 website](#)



*Supports the Eco-Schools marine and water topics*



**Leicester  
City Council**



**DE MONTFORT  
UNIVERSITY  
LEICESTER**



# Community Food Growing

**Leicester Community Food Growing**  
**SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

We are creating a team of Community Champions to help new growers gain confidence...

Do you need advice on how to start growing food? We offer bespoke advice and training.

We share information and resources via our Leicester Food Growing Facebook page.

We support schools to turn their grounds into community growing hubs.

We offer advice on how to set up and fund community gardens and allotments.

For further information please contact  
samantha.woods@tcv.org.uk  
Tel 07971 601227

leicester.gov.uk/foodplan  
LeicesterCityCouncil  
@leicester\_news

The Community Food Growing Support network is assisting schools across the city to set up and develop food gardens and integrate food growing into the curriculum.

Creating a vibrant food garden can also help schools achieve the Food for Life and Eco-Schools awards.

## How to find out more

Samantha Woods, Senior Project Officer  
The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)

✉ samantha.woods@tcv.org.uk

☎ 07971 601227

*Supports the Eco-Schools healthy living and school grounds topics*



# Compost Awareness Week Activities

Paint one of our bins at your school and have it displayed on the Composting site, paint your school bin and have a photo displayed on the site or paint a bin as a family on the day. For more information please contact Stokes Wood Allotments via email [carryoncomposting1@gmail.com](mailto:carryoncomposting1@gmail.com)

*Supports the Eco-Schools healthy living and school grounds topics*



## Compost Awareness Week 2019

at Stokes Wood Allotments Stokes Drive, Leicester, LE2 9QB

### Composting Demonstration Site Opening Events

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Refreshments available

Allotment Composting Talk & Slideshow (free) 1-2 pm

Family activities 2:30 - 3:30pm

Make wildflower compost seedbombs



£1 per family take approx. 8-10 Seedbombs

Compost Safari: Search for the creatures that live in and help make compost



Use hand lens and microscope to hunt for compost creatures

### Paint a Compost bin

Paint one of our bins at your school and have it displayed on the Composting site, paint your school bin and have a photo displayed on the site or paint a bin as a family on the day.



Contact [carryoncomposting1@gmail.com](mailto:carryoncomposting1@gmail.com) for further information

## NOTTS & LEICS FOREST EDUCATION NETWORK

Programme of events and workshops Spring 2019

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

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April & 8<sup>th</sup> June** Skills Revision Day 10.00am to 3/4.00pm

*Workshop leader: Kate Ward.* (Similar events also planned on Jul 27<sup>th</sup> and Oct 5<sup>th</sup>) Ideal for those with Level 2 and 3 qualifications, or trainees. Opportunity to practise skills from campfire cooking to tool use and shelter building. Come along and develop your firefighting skills, make some char cloth, bake some bread, make a stool or chair, practice with a wide range of tool or improve your knot and shelter building skills. Happy to facilitate specific projects on request.

**VENUE: Park Farm, Overton Road, Ibstock, LE67 6PD.**

**Cost: £30 in advance OR £35 on the day (space permitting).**

To book, email Kate Ward. [kate@holmsdalemanor.co.uk](mailto:kate@holmsdalemanor.co.uk) or call 01530 262434 (office hours only) or 07775857222.

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**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April** Maths with Sticks and Stones - outdoor numeracy training Timing: 10 am – 12noon

**FREE training.** Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust's **Wild About Learning** teachers' pack consists of 2 hour numeracy and literacy lesson plans for each KS1 and KS2 year group, plus links to other packs and resources.

Join us for an interactive, messy workshop, focusing on using sticks and other natural materials to teach maths outdoors. During the sessions, you will receive and sample many of the activities in the pack, covering key areas of study. Come and find out how to utilise your outdoor space with simple resources and ideas to make maths more hands-on. There will be two sessions running in parallel – one for KS1 and one for KS2.

The training will be followed by a fire where people are welcome to bring and share lunch to warm/cook.

**VENUE: Lucas Marsh Nature Reserve, Oadby.** Nearest postcode **LE2 5JJ.** More directions nearer the time

To book, go to: [www.bookwhen.com/lrwtevents](http://www.bookwhen.com/lrwtevents) and select FEN Outdoor Numeracy training.

The password/code is: **ONT28**



**Wed, 15<sup>th</sup> May 4 -6pm** Welcome to the Green Place. **FREE meeting and ideas swap.**

Meet the man with the 'magnificent beard' Luke Aistle.

<https://www.facebook.com/wooddoodlesleicester> Luke will show us The Green Place community project run by Complete Wasters and explain the ways the Green Place engages with the community on sustainability and reusing/repurposing. This meeting is a must if you are involved with eco-schools, John Muir awards and are looking for ideas to get across the message of ethical living to the children and adults you work with in school or Forest School.

Luke is a skilled forest school leader and crafts person and we are hoping he will tell us a little about his courses. I believe spoon carving is one of his specialities. If he can spare the time he may run a wood carving course for our FEN members during the summer.

**Supports the Eco-Schools healthy living and school grounds topics**



Eco-Schools

Between 4.00 and 6.00 it will be open house at the Green Place on 15<sup>th</sup> May. Arrive before 5.00 to use their café, explore and socialise. Discussion and questions at 5.00. The gathering will finish no later than 6.00pm

**VENUE** The Green Place, 6 Cossington Rd, Sileby, LE12 7RS  
<https://thegreenplace.org.uk/index.php/about-us>

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June** **FOREST SCHOOL & OUTDOOR FIRST AID** 2 day ITC course at Hugglescote Primary School

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 2019 or you are training and need an Outdoor First Aid course you can reserve your place **now**. (**Only 6 places left**)

To book a place please email Cath Thomson [nottsleicsfen@outlook.com](mailto:nottsleicsfen@outlook.com) or text 07887 996293

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### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - LOCAL NETWORK EVENTS**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September** Annual **SKILLS DAY** – same venue as last year, Park Farm, Ibstock. Lots interesting workshops. Further information and taking bookings after Easter.

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Fri eve **30<sup>th</sup> Aug to 1<sup>st</sup> September** **EXCELLENCE IN WOODLAND** Grangewood Farm DE12 8BG

A weekend event (ample camping space and facilities) for outdoor practitioners over 16 years of age. Bringing together some of the best / most experienced deliverers of woodland based crafts in the UK to provide you with valuable short training courses and guidance.

Much more information on this event will be given in this bulletin in April. The full price for the weekend is £65 but there are additional small charges for workshops of between £10 and £15. **Our network has been offered 16 places on the weekend at £45.** These would have to be booked before June. When further information has been distributed the secretary will take expressions of interest after Easter.

**Back by popular demand, an opportunity to hone your hand tool skills**

**\*\*\* Sunday 20th October 9am to 5pm "SHARP TOOLS" Bushcraft CPD Day \*\*\***

Our FEN group has been very lucky to secure another group booking at just **£50 per head** (normally £75)

A full day with nationally acclaimed bushcraft expert, Dave Watson. Only 6 places available.

**The secretary will take bookings for this event from June onwards**

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### **OTHER EVENTS AND TRAINING**

Kate's dates for L2 and L3 Forest School training in 2019. **For more information** email Kate Ward. [kate@holmsdalemanor.co.uk](mailto:kate@holmsdalemanor.co.uk) or call 01530 262434 (office hours only) or 07775857222

MARCH 25-29  
APRIL 15-19  
MAY 18/19, JUN 15, JUL 20/21  
JUNE 5/12/19/26 + JULY 3  
JULY 22-26  
SEPTEMBER 20/27 + OCTOBER 4/11/18  
OCTOBER 28-NOV 1

**Supports the Eco-Schools healthy living  
and school grounds topics**



Eco-Schools

# COG Youth Services - Recycling Ambassadors

In May 2018, we started our recycling partnership with Lee Jowett and the Eco-Schools project, with the idea of recycling of various writing instruments across Leicester's schools. We have since expanded our recycling capabilities to include crisp packets, popcorn packets, biscuit wrappers and many more plastics that previous would have been put into landfill or incinerated. With the amazing efforts of 43 Leicester schools we have, so far, managed to divert over 13,000 writing instruments from landfill and incineration. These heroic schools and their amazing eco-warriors have also helped to contribute towards the 6000 crisp packets we have recycled. This has helped to raise £150 that is used to support youth provision across the city. We are looking to launch 2 new projects that schools can take part in. The first is a healthy teeth campaign, which will also open the doors to recycling toothbrushes and toothpaste packaging. The second is our launch of the John Muir Award, an environmental award for children and young people. Thank you to all the schools for what you have helped us to achieve so far and we hope you continue to recycle with us. If your school would be interested in joining our recycling schemes or taking part in any of our other environmental activities, take a look at our website or email



Supports the waste Eco-Schools topic

## How to find out more

Teejash Patel – Youth Worker

✉ [info@cogyouthservices.co.uk](mailto:info@cogyouthservices.co.uk)

🐦 [www.cogyouthservices.co.uk](http://www.cogyouthservices.co.uk)

🌐 <https://cogyouthservices.co.uk>



## Air Quality Education for Leicester schools 2019-20



### The programme

**A free tailored engagement experience, for all schools.**

One-off, term or year-long projects, led for you or by you.

**Healthier Air Award** – linking your active travel projects together.



### Air pollution

**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.



### What's included:

- Learn about air quality and air pollution
- Assemblies to **raise awareness**
- Curriculum-linked activities
- Outdoor learning opportunities
- **Take action** through pupil led campaigns
- Community events for parents and children
- Training opportunities for school staff.



**Find out more or book a meeting, contact:**  
**Danni Kennell** Education Officer (Air Quality)  
**Work mobile:** 07732 603 694  
**Email:** [danielle.kennell@Leicester.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.kennell@Leicester.gov.uk)