

Welcome to the **June Sustainable Schools Leicester eBulletin**.

We hope you all had a relaxing Half Term break. With the last few week of this academic year ahead, there is plenty get involved in.

Upcoming events, projects and competitions:

30 Days Wild is taking place throughout June to encourage children to get outdoors

World Environment Day in on Friday 5th June

Big Green Week runs from Saturday 6th to Sunday 14th June

World Bicycle Week runs from Monday 8th to Sunday 14th June

World Oceans Day is on Monday 8th June

Clean Air Day is on Thursday 18th June

Nature Discovery Week runs from 29th June to 3rd July

Plastic-free July runs throughout July

Plastic Bag free day is on Friday 3rd July

Good Life Schools Celebration – is on Tuesday 23rd June.

Grow Your Own Grub Showcase at Abbey Pumping Station – Saturday 4th July.

Deadline for submissions for our June ebulletin = 5pm on Wednesday 24th June 2026



Students at Scraftoft Valley Primary and Willowbrook Mead Academy have been taking part in sessions led by the Sustainable Schools Team about Natural Flood Management, designing what they would like in their school grounds to help prevent flooding.

Take care and, as always, if you need any help or support do get in touch.

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Follow us on Social Media

The Sustainable Schools Team have their own social media channels where you can keep up to date with all things related to sustainability in schools.



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



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



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



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



schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools



SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk

Eco Schools Green Flag Award – Applications now OPEN!

The Eco Schools application window is **now open until 31st July 2026**.

Last year, 42 schools achieved their Green Flag awards, putting Leicester City in the top 5 areas in the UK for Eco Schools – can we achieve as many or even more this year?

When you log on to the Eco Schools portal, you can now complete all the sections for the 7 steps – please do read through the criteria carefully to see if anything has changed and what evidence is a requirement to get your award.¹

Wondering about going for Merit or Distinction? Since you are already applying, it only takes 5-10 more minutes to get the Merit or Distinction Awards by answering the Bonus Education and Bonus Environmental Questions. All you need is 20 points (4 ticks) for the Education section, and 20 points (20 ticks) for the Environmental Section to get Merit or 30 points (Education) and 40 points (Environmental) for the Distinction!

Funding - We are delighted to be able to sponsor all schools within Leicester City (please contact us if you are not sure whether this includes you), meaning schools will only pay a £50 contribution towards your application (due in September 2026).

If you need any help or support with your application or any step of the process, please do get in touch, as we are happy to provide support in person, or via email, Teams and phone call. Email Vicky at victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk.



Eco Teach Meet at Montrose School

We are excited to be running an Eco teach Meet at Montrose School, Wigston Ln, Aylestone, Leicester LE2 on **Tuesday 9 June 2026, 4pm – 5:15pm**.

Refreshments and chance for a chat from 3.30pm

Confirmed speakers:

Will Warley (Sustainability lead at Montrose School) – Tour of Montrose Ravine (see article below), how other schools and organisations can use it, wildlife recording

Marc Tench – Using Tiny Forests for outdoor education

Anna Fryer – Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)

Sign up using the [eform](#).

All school staff and organisations welcome! If you would like more information, please contact marc.tench@leicester.gov.uk



Grow Your Own Grub Mealbarrow Extravaganza 2026

Come along on **Saturday 4 July 2025, 11am – 3pm** to show your support and vote for your favourite!

FREE Entry for everyone at Abbey Pumping Station, Leicester, LE4 5PX

Our annual 'Mealbarrow Extravaganza' is back on **Saturday 4 July 2025** at Abbey Pumping Station. Come along to this free, family event and view the wheelbarrows created and grown by local schools. You will then be invited to vote for your favourite! Alongside the 'Mealbarrows', a railway day is taking place, the Children's BookBus will be onsite and there is free entry to the museum all day.

The railway will be operational for rides, and the electric Book Bus will be there too, plus lots of activities for you to take part in.

For more information, please contact GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk



Ernest Cook Trust Grants – Get up to £1000 for your school – Applications open until 3rd June!

The Ernest Cook Trust have once again opened applications for their Outdoor Essentials Grant.

The Outdoor Essentials Grant is an award to UK state-funded schools to remove barriers and enable pupils to connect to nature and learn outdoors. An award of **£500 is offered to primary and special schools** and a double award of **2 x £500 (£1,000) to secondary schools**. Priority will be given to schools with underserved pupils in areas of high deprivation. This round is only available to primary, secondary and special schools that are located within our hub areas, with an LE postcode.

Grants are available for the following options:

- Nature & Nurture - School grounds improvements: this grant is available to schools to enhance 'nature on the doorstep' through improvements to school grounds or areas within their local community.
- Transport & Travel - Transport costs to outdoor learning venues: this grant supports school travel and transport costs to any centre or provider that can facilitate outdoor learning and wellbeing, including: outdoor learning centres, forest schools, countryside parks, woodlands, national parks, farm parks, farms (including city farms), coastal areas and beaches.
- Wellies & Waterproofs - Outdoor clothing: this grant helps to fund outdoor clothing to enable children and young people to learn outdoors.
- Teacher Training - Training in outdoor learning: this grant can be used towards outdoor learning training of your own choosing.

To find out more and to apply, visit: <https://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Outdoor-Essentials-Grant-05.2026.pdf>

Applications are only open until Wednesday 3rd June. The next round will be open from January 2027, but will be open to all schools across the UK, so it would be advisable for Leicester Schools to apply now to be more successful.



National Education Nature Park Summer term resources

Has your educational setting joined the National Education Nature Park yet? Join the thousands of schools, nurseries and colleges who are taking action for nature.

Summer term has arrived! Everything is suddenly buzzing and blooming, so it's a brilliant time to be taking your learning outdoors. Perhaps your Year 6 pupils could focus on a lasting legacy project after their SATs?

Here are some suggestions of things you can get involved with:

- [Nature Discovery Week](#), 29th June – 3rd July – why not finish off the year exploring your nursery or school grounds?
- For younger learners, check out our [EYFS Guide](#).
- Take part in some community science using our [Pollinator Count](#) or brand new [Grassland Survey](#)
- Many [free resources](#) available for all ages and subjects!

If you'd like to know more or would like further support, get in touch with your regional team:
eastmidlandsnaturepark@ltnl.org.uk



Carbon Literacy Project – upcoming training dates

In February 2019, Leicester City Council declared a climate emergency. We are working to reduce carbon with the aim of the city becoming zero carbon. In order to raise awareness of the climate emergency, we are using the Carbon Literacy Project as a way of accrediting school staff in becoming Carbon Literate. The DfE have said that each school should have a sustainability lead who will have taken part in Carbon Literacy Training. Any school staff, governors, and managers can take part.

In-person training: **Friday 2nd October 2026, 9:30am to 4pm** (arrival from 9am)

To sign up to the training, please complete the [eform](#) or scan the QR code →

Cost is £50 per person for school staff / governors from Leicester City schools or £70 for non-school staff and staff outside of Leicester City. This includes the individual and course accreditation fees from the Carbon Literacy Project.

Carbon Literacy Project



Carbon Literacy Training - 2026/27



30 Days Wild – running throughout June

June feels different. The light lingers. Bees buzz around gardens. Swifts soar overhead. Wildflowers push through cracks in the pavement. And we're inviting you to notice it all!

30 Days Wild is the UK's biggest nature challenge. This June, choose one wild thing a day (or a few each week) - from giving nature a helping hand to simply noticing the wild on your doorstep.

Sign up on their website to receive your free pack in the post and by email. Join thousands of people connecting with nature, feeling better and making a positive difference for nature.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild>



World Environment Day - 5 June

Discover more about our incredible planet and how we can all help protect it.

On this day we celebrate our environment. To celebrate World Environment Day, we'd love to invite you to learn more about our amazing planet. You can join in by discovering fascinating facts about the world around us, and finding out how you can help protect our natural world.

Why are we celebrating World Environment Day?

This day is a reminder of why we need to protect our natural world - our greatest ally in the fight against climate change. From the air we breathe, to the food we eat, nature is the backbone of life on our planet. Here are 10 reason why we need to support nature.

To find out more, visit <https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/world-days/environment-day>



Great Big Green Week (6 - 14 June)

Great Big Green Week is the only mass moment for nature and climate in the UK, and it belongs to everyone.

Every June, thousands of events take place in towns, cities and villages across the country. From repair cafés and nature walks to community clean-ups and film screenings, people everywhere come together for good and make a real difference.

In 2025, more than a million people took part. In 2026, we want even more. Whether you organise something big, join something local or simply encourage a friend to get involved, every action counts.

Take a look at what others have done and start thinking about what you could do between **6 and 14 June 2026**.

<https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/>



Bike Week is Cycling UK's annual celebration of cycling, returning from 8–14 June 2026

Run by Cycling UK for more than 100 years, Bike Week is the UK's biggest celebration of cycling and a chance to

show how cycling can make everyday life better for people and communities across the country.



Our mission is to create happier, healthier and greener lives through cycling, and through Bike Week we're inspiring more people to experience its benefits.

Whether you cycle every day, ride occasionally or have not been on a bike in years, Bike Week is for you.

There are **two main ways to get involved this year:**

- **Host a Bike Week Brunch** – a simple, sociable way to celebrate Bike Week and support Cycling UK
- **Join The Big Bike Revival** – free, friendly local sessions to help adults build confidence, build skills or get back into cycling

However you choose to take part, Bike Week is about celebrating cycling in a way that works for you. So if you simply want to go out for a cycle or try swapping a short car journey for a bike ride these are also great ways to celebrate the week and get involved.

For more information go to: <https://www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek>

Clean air day is on June 18th 2026, so save the date!

Clean Air Day is the UK's biggest initiative to reduce air pollution. It provides an opportunity to raise awareness about air pollution and take action towards improving the quality of air for a healthier environment. Clean Air Day is a national initiative that Leicester City Council has been a part of since 2018.



The day aims to raise awareness of the importance of clean air for our health and the environment. It encourages our city's communities, schools and businesses to take action to reduce air pollution to create a healthier and sustainable future, for everyone.

Keep an eye out for updates on their website at: <https://www.actionforcleanair.org.uk/campaigns/clean-air-day>

Free Resources for outdoor sessions and learning

With 30 Days Wild happening throughout June and the summer term offering many more opportunities to get outdoors, there are plenty of resources for you to access and use to get students outside!

For anyone who is looking for useful worksheets and resources to use when doing outdoor education sessions, a Bioblitz, Bug Hunts, bird watching, outdoor crafts, etc, then the following websites are two which have a brilliant selection of free to access printable resources:

Woodland Trust – Tree Tools for schools resources: [Tree Tools for Schools – Woodland Trust](#)

Wildlife Trusts – Wildlife Watch resources: [Activities | Wildlife Watch](#)

Wildlife Trusts – Educators resources: [For educators | Wildlife Watch](#)

Wildlife Aid - has some great ideas for activities to do at School: [Wildlife Resources for schools](#)

WWF Species Resources For Schools: [Species resources for schools | WWF](#)

RSPB Activities: [Wildlife Garden Activities | Nature on your Doorstep](#)

There are many more to discover so you should have plenty of ideas to get everyone outside, having fun and learning!

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