

# Schools news

April 2020



Welcome to the April Leicester Schools newsletter. It goes without saying that these are interesting times, but we want to assure you that we are still here. This newsletter features many ideas and resources to help you through this period along with some good news stories from the year and how you can still apply for your Green Flag. We will still be sending out our monthly eBulletins so let us know what has been working for you so we can share with everyone. Thank you to all those that are still working in school and for the students spreading some brightness with the rainbow art around the city. **As always get in touch if you need any support, Lee and Amy.**

## What is Eco-Schools Leicester?

Leicester City Council has a dedicated Environmental Education Team based in the Energy and Sustainability Team that 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.



## How to find out more



Lee Jowett & Amy Peace  
Environmental Education Team

Phoenix House, King Street, Leicester LE1 6RN

✉ [Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk)

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

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

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

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

☎ 0116 454 2271 / 454 4543

Schools all over Leicester have been displaying rainbows. Here are just a few including from Twitter Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy, Stokes Wood, Avenue, St John's King Richard III Infants and Nurse and Whitehall Primary School

Finished reading? Pass on to a colleague

## Eco-School Awards

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

Since January 2020

### Recently registered or re-engaged

*Humberstone Infant School*

*Merrydale Junior School*

### Bronze

*Holy Cross Catholic Primary School*

*Kirby Muxloe Primary School*

### Silver

*Highfields Primary School*

### Green Flag Award and renewals\*

*Abbey Mead Primary Academy*

*Barley Croft Primary School*

*Catherine Junior School \**

*Ellesmere College*

*Montrose School*

*Nether Hall Special School*

*Queensmead Primary School*

*Stokeswood Primary School \**

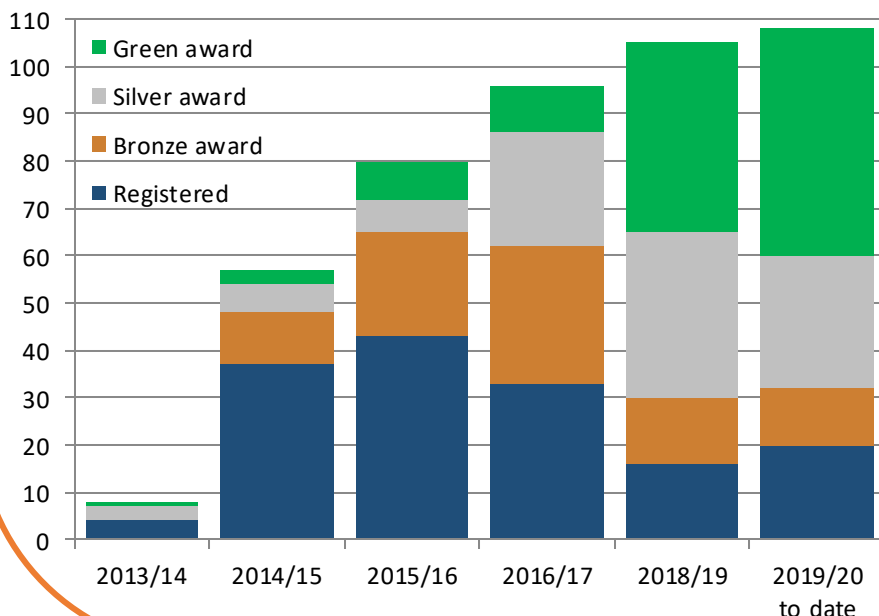
*Uplands LEAD Academy*

**Correct as of 02/04/2020**

## Newsletter

Our newsletters are published 4 times per year. If you would like to submit an article for the next newsletter, the deadline is **Friday 3 July 2020**. 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)

## We now have 48 Green Flag Eco-Schools in Leicester!



We wanted to let everyone see how well Leicester is doing with engagement in the Eco-Schools program. As you can see from the graph, not only is engagement growing each year, the number of Green Flags is at its highest yet. We are really proud to work with such inspired and inspirational young people and Eco-Coordinators. Congratulations to everyone involved and keep up the excellent work!



# EcoTeach Webinars

Wednesdays at 10.00-11.00am



<b>22 April</b>	Topic: Energy & Water	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/776157833">zoom.us/j/776157833</a>
<b>29 April</b>	Topic: Litter	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/729762258">zoom.us/j/729762258</a>
<b>6 May</b>	Topic: School Grounds	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/868876787">zoom.us/j/868876787</a>
<b>13 May</b>	Topic: Waste and recycling	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/583112963">zoom.us/j/583112963</a>
<b>20 May</b>	Topic: Transport	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/219213760">zoom.us/j/219213760</a>
<b>3 June</b>	Topic: Biodiversity	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/335624673">zoom.us/j/335624673</a>
<b>10 June</b>	Topic: Global Citizenship & Fairtrade	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/921396066">zoom.us/j/921396066</a>
<b>17 June</b>	Topic: Healthy Living	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/880976336">zoom.us/j/880976336</a>
<b>24 June</b>	Topic: Marine	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/514363381">zoom.us/j/514363381</a>
<b>1 July</b>	Topic: Catch up on all Eco-topics	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/366369785">zoom.us/j/366369785</a>

*Please log on 5 minutes before start time to ensure you have suitable software requirements*

Keep up to date with all things Environmental Education while social distancing  
**Find out about opportunities to participate in different projects and activities taking place in Leicester**

All webinars will be presented by Lee Jowett and Amy Peace

*Please note, if the majority of schools return before summer these webinars may be curtailed*

If you would like more information please  
contact the  
Environmental Education Team

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

[Amy.Peace@Leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Amy.Peace@Leicester.gov.uk) 0116 454 4543



# How to apply for your Green Flag

Given the UK Chief Medical Officers have now raised the coronavirus (COVID-19) risk in the UK from moderate to high, Eco-Schools have made the difficult decision to cancel all Green Flag school assessment visits until the end of the summer term for the safety of our schools and assessors.

**You can still submit your first Green Flag application and renew your Green Flag.** We are still waiting to hear about extensions to schools who are renewing their Green Flag this next term.

To submit your Green Flag application, complete the standard application form which is online – remember you need to upload a photo of your noticeboard, your Eco-review and Eco-action plan. You can also upload additional documents to help Eco-Schools carry out the desktop assessment. We are also here to help!



## How to find out more

**Lee Jowett & Amy Peace**  
**Environmental Education Team**

✉ [Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk)

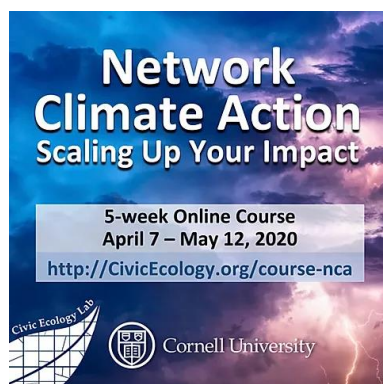
🌐 [schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools](http://schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools)

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

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

☎ 0116 454 2271 / 454 4543

## Cornell University – online course



[www.civicecology.org/course-nca](http://www.civicecology.org/course-nca)

Lee has just completed a similar course on environmental education change management and would recommend to anyone looking for professional CPD

Many of us want to do something about climate change, but individual actions can feel inadequate in the face of the looming crisis. In the Network **Climate Action: Scaling up your Impact** online course, you will learn what the latest research says about how to scale up your individual actions through your social networks.

The course welcomes environment, climate, and education professionals, volunteers, university students, or other climate concerned citizen from any country. Discussions will be in English. This is NOT a course about climate science, but rather about how you can take effective action to help address the climate crisis.

Cost: \$60 fee – approximately £45, payment made by credit card.



*Supports the Eco-Schools ethos*

# #EcoTeachMeet Leicester

## Tuesday 5 May 2020



**\*\*\*New location: online\*\*\***

Tuesday 5 May 2020 4.00-5.30pm

[zoom.us/j/305629412](https://zoom.us/j/305629412)

**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:

[SummerEcoTeachMeet](#)

If you would like more information please contact the Environmental Education Team

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

[Amy.Peace@Leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Amy.Peace@Leicester.gov.uk) 0116 454 4543

# Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration 2020

DATE TO BE  
CONFIRMED

October 2020 • City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester

Celebrate the work that your school has completed this year by attending the 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 – 2.15pm.

*Lunch will be provided (dietary requirements nearer the time)*

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

For more information and to book your school place contact:

Amy Peace, Leicester City Council  
[amy.peace@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:amy.peace@leicester.gov.uk) 0116 454 4543

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

Healthier  
**AIR**  
for Leicester



# Carbon Literacy Offer for Schools

In February 2019, Leicester City Council declared a climate emergency. We are working to develop a climate emergency programme of action to reduce carbon with aim of the city becoming zero carbon.

In order to raise awareness through the community of Leicester we are using the Carbon Literacy Project as a way of accrediting university students to become carbon literate trainers who will deliver training to school students to make them carbon literate. This exciting project is being delivered in the 2019-20 academic year.

**We are offering free training to all primary and secondary students in Leicester City. The project is primarily aimed at Y5 in junior/primary and Y8 in secondary schools, however other year groups can be considered.**

The training takes place during a normal school day and a whole class can participate at once. The training will be delivered by Lee and Amy along with university students from DMU and the University of Leicester. You just need to provide a classroom and access to ICT.

**\*\*This project will now take place in the 2020/21 academic year. Get in touch to register your interest.**

## Carbon Literacy Project



### How to find out more

Amy Peace

☎ 0116 454 4345

✉ [Amy.Peace@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Amy.Peace@leicester.gov.uk)



*Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics including energy and transport*

## Choose how you move



## Staying active and safe

It is important to stay active whilst we remain in lockdown. Being active helps us stay fit and helps to keep us feeling happy.

For ideas on how to stay active within the home for those who are self-isolating and for those who are allowed to leave the house once a day for exercise, please follow this [link](#) or to go on to the [Choose How You Move](#) website.

The website has ideas on exercising at home, how to take a walk or a cycle ride safely, how to make a walk or cycle ride more interesting.

### How to find out more

Sally Slade

☎ 0116 454 2814

✉ [Sally.Slade@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.Slade@leicester.gov.uk)



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

# 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.	<b>Tuesday 5 May 2020, 4.00-5.30pm</b> Online <a href="https://zoom.us/j/305629412">zoom.us/j/305629412</a>
<b>Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration event</b>	An opportunity to showcase the fantastic work which Leicester Schools have done over the academic year. Now in its sixth year, it is a real treat!	<b>Exact date to be confirmed – October 2020, all day</b> City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ
<b>EcoTeach Webinars</b>	Find out about opportunities to participate in different projects and activities taking place in Leicester	<b>Wednesdays – starting after the Easter break 10.00-11am.</b> Check out the events page or flyer in this newsletter



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



## Carbon Literacy Isolation Activities

With the growing pandemic of Covid-19 requiring us to “stay indoors to save lives”, millions of people are now self-isolating or practising social distancing in their homes. While this is necessary to beat the contagious virus, many are finding themselves at a loss for something meaningful to do with their time.

Click [here](#) for the top 10 things the Carbon Literacy Trust recommend that you can do to stay busy while self-isolating, to keep your carbon emissions low including:

- Growing your own veg
- Reading or watching environmental based media
- Exercise

**Carbon Literacy Project**



### How to find out more

Carbon Literacy Project

✉ [info@carbonliteracy.com](mailto:info@carbonliteracy.com)

🌐 <https://carbonliteracy.com/>



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



# Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Short Story Competition



## Winner and prize revealed

Last year the LRWT invited Leicester city KS2 pupils to combine their creativity with their love of nature and come up with a short story featuring UK plants, trees and/or animals. The competition formed part of the Trusts' Wild Forest School project, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery. Twenty-six stories were judged by BBC Radio Leicester presenter Jimmy Carpenter, Leicester Mercury News Editor Linda Steelyard, Environmental Education Co-ordinator for Leicester City Council Lee Jowett and LRWT Grow Wild gardener Matthew Herbert. The judges were impressed by the standard of the entries:



*"They were so imaginative, and many of them were very original, interesting and fun. The writers used wildlife across the spectrum of characters - heroes and villains, friends and foes. Great stuff! I was really interested to see the breadth of knowledge about UK wildlife. The children had clearly done their research about different species, their habitats and features of them. It was amazing how quickly a story could develop in such a short piece of writing."*

The winners were:

- Phoebe, Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy - *The Day in the Life of a Squirrel*
- Rafi, Leicester Preparatory School - *The Tale of the Red Squirrel*
- Ruqiya Sparkenhoe Community Primary School - *The Striped Fox*

Phoebe's story, about a squirrel called Scampy who lives in her garden, was chosen to win the top prize because: *"she placed herself in the story, and it felt like she wrote about real experiences of enjoying wildlife in her garden. Cleverly she made the squirrel the main character rather than herself. The whole thing just spoke of a real appreciation of nature."* Phoebe found out that she had won live on BBC Radio Leicester when her story was read out on air.

The three children all received a certificate and prizes for their schools. The first prize was a custom-built storytelling chair and area, which the perfect place for outdoor literacy lessons, where the children can write, perform and listen to poetry and stories.

The chair was crafted by Peter Leadbeater, a chainsaw sculptor and the 'bookends' behind it were designed and painted by Emma Sheppard, a Leicester-based artist. These feature iconic wildlife-themed books such as *Charlotte's Web* and *The Jungle Book* alongside Phoebe's own tale.

Annie Carter, Headteacher at Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy, said: *"We were so proud of Phoebe when we found out that her story had won first place. The chair is not only a wonderful way to celebrate Phoebe's creativity and imagination, but also a beautiful legacy for her to leave in the grounds of the school which will be used for years to come."*

You can read the three winning stories here: [www.wildforestschool.org.uk/wild-stories](http://www.wildforestschool.org.uk/wild-stories) and watch a short film on the opening of the storytelling area here: [www.wildforestschool.org.uk](http://www.wildforestschool.org.uk)

**LRWT will be running a Wild Art competition this year, with the first prize being a wildlife-themed graffiti mural for the school. To register your school's interest in taking part, please email: [mrose@lrwt.org.uk](mailto:mrose@lrwt.org.uk)**



**Supports the biodiversity topic**



# Litter Innovation Project Launch



We are very pleased to let you know about our very exciting social media campaign called 'Love Where You Live'.

The overall aim of the Litter Innovation Fund is to find new ways of reducing and preventing litter/littering through new methods and interventions that have not been tried and tested before. The Litter Innovation Fund is jointly funded by the Department for Environment & Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG). Over the next 6 weeks we will be promoting one of six videos per week produced by students from:

- [Castle Mead Academy](#)
- [Catherine Junior School](#)
- [King Richard III Infant School](#)
- [Rushey Mead Academy](#)
- [Rushey Mead Primary School](#)
- [Shaftesbury Junior School](#)

As part of the Litter Innovation Fund, funded by DEFRA and managed by Wrap UK, we are carrying out a campaign to highlight the issue of litter in Leicester.

The campaign comprises of a series of short, hard-hitting clips to be used in digital media across the city. Three key themes which will be addressed:

- Sea and river pollution
- Please don't carry out flytipping
- Litter harms animals

The videos have been created in English and subtitled in the 10 most commonly spoken languages in Leicester. We are conducting litter surveys, both before and after the campaign, in areas local to the schools in order to assess the impact the campaign has. School participation in these surveys contributes to the Eco-Schools Award, of which we are proud to say that Leicester has nearly 50 Green Flag schools. The campaign is now live across our social media platforms:

- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/EcoSchoolsLCC](https://www.twitter.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EnvEducationLeicester](https://www.facebook.com/EnvEducationLeicester)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/EcoSchoolsLCC](https://www.instagram.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3cF18ihR5QrffMzODaPKKQ>

Why not follow us on one or more of our social media channels? **Large versions of banners and posters can be downloaded from the [schools' extranet](#).** Email signatures are also available to download from the extranet.



*Supports the marine, litter,  
biodiversity and water topics*



# Off School by SDSA



## Calling local teachers, schools and providers working together to help parents

You may have already heard that the SDSA has been asked by our local schools to provide a platform to help parents navigate their way through the maze of activities that are being presented to them, and a place for our great local teachers to upload short films of fun learning activities for families to do at home.

We are pleased to be able to gift our company time throughout the entire closure period to develop and manage [www.offschool.org.uk](http://www.offschool.org.uk) to complement the work of local schools in this way.

This week the website is a place for schools, teachers and providers to get involved. From next week it will launch as a completely free site for families. We have been delighted with an initial overwhelming response to Off School. A growing group of enthusiastic teachers and providers are asking how they can help contribute on a regular basis, so we have decided to create a community of filmmakers who will work directly with us to develop new materials and advise on the site.

**Become an Off School Film Maker**– visit <https://offschool.org.uk/filmmakers/>  
There is an example video on the website page.

If you might want to become part of this fantastic team, please either register through the website link above or contact [Ellen.Jee@sdsa.net](mailto:Ellen.Jee@sdsa.net) directly by email, outlining a few of the details below.

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Role:**

**School/Organisation:**

**Any specific phase you could create short films for: FS, KS1, KS2, KS3**

**Which subject/topic area might you wish to focus on?**

We will then add your details to our team of Off School Film Makers and be in touch again soon. Please spread the work about Off School and forward to any providers you know who could help us all to support local families in this way. Take care of each other!

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



## Next round of £10m urban tree fund opens

The Forestry Commission has opened the next round of the £10m [Urban Tree Challenge Fund](#), which is for community and volunteer groups, town councils and individuals to apply for funding to increase tree numbers in urban areas.

Launched in May 2019, the Urban Tree Challenge Fund aims to support the planting of more than 130,000 trees across England's towns and cities.

The scheme is being administered by the Forestry Commission, with applications for single planting projects of between 150 and 5,000 small trees invited. Applications that contain 500 or more trees are especially encouraged.

**Expanding urban forests:**  
The Urban Tree Challenge Fund  
Planting trees for people in our towns and cities



# 10 Air Quality Experiments for the classroom and kitchen



Air Quality Education is no longer just for school, since being sent home we've been busy working away to find you some practical and theoretical activities that can be undertaken anywhere, with minimal resources – and using what you find around the home or classroom. All activities and resources have been found online, or are our own creations, so if you have an internet connection, you can download and use them. The best bit – they are all **FREE!**

Activities have been grouped under their appropriate key stage (KS). Some activities are cross-key stage, so feel free to use them as you see fit.

Each activity or lesson has been chosen to cover a different aspect of the Leicester City Council's Air Quality Education programme. These include:

- Identifying air pollution sources
- Discovering the impact of poor air quality to health and the environment; and
- Taking action to improve air quality.

This **PDF document** will be available on the [Air Quality Education Resources page](#), on Schools Extranet. On this page you'll find more air quality lessons and classroom activities, created in-house, for you to use in your lesson planning. It would be great to have your feedback, please email [air-quality-education@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:air-quality-education@leicester.gov.uk) with your thoughts.

## How to find out more

Danni Kennell, Education Officer (Air Quality)

Leicester City Council

☎ 07732 603 694

✉ [danielle.kennell@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.kennell@leicester.gov.uk)



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



## Beaumont Lodge Project

Karl from Enstruct wanted to share the progress that the post-16 students, supported by Enstruct have made neighbourhood centre at Beaumont Lodge .

They have been down there twice now – roughly 2 hours each time (lunch provided for – which I can not thank you enough for Martin, and the students that prepare and cook it for us). The students really enjoy the work – they're getting so much from it, in terms of employment skills - and what is expected of 'employees'. It's preparing them for later life, giving them much needed experience, once they have achieved the qualifications form ourselves.

We really hope this project gathers some moss and continues to progress. Thanks Sam from The Conservation Volunteers for making this all possible and connecting the dots!



*Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics*



# New £25 million funding programme for maintained schools

## Interest free funding available for maintained schools over the next 2 years



Salix and the Department for Education have launched a pilot scheme for maintained schools looking to install energy efficiency measures over the summer of 2018. This pilot comes as a first step towards delivering £25 million of funding over a 2 year period, which aims to help schools lower energy bills, save carbon and create a more comfortable working environment.

Maintained schools are welcome to apply online for Salix interest-free funding. The repayment period is 10 years, calculated through the estimated energy savings resulting from installing new technologies. Where schools would like additional help in outlining projects, Salix is able to provide an energy efficiency survey via our award winning Switching to Low Energy (SLE) scheme. This scheme is designed to help schools reduce their energy spend to the lowest possible level.

The pilot is an opportunity for works to be completed for schools over the summer holidays, to avoid disruption in term time, and will also provide excellent learning going forward.

During the past year, Salix has worked with more than 500 schools and colleges to save on their energy bills and carbon footprint. This new pilot programme means that Salix will be able work with a projected 1,000 schools across the country\*.

### Most Common Energy Efficient Technologies in Schools

- ✓ Boiler Upgrades
- ✓ Building Energy Management Systems
- ✓ Computer and IT Equipment
- ✓ Heating improvements
- ✓ Insulation Upgrades
- ✓ Kitchen Equipment
- ✓ LED Lighting
- ✓ Solar PV



Support for over  
100 technologies



Improved learning  
environment



Save money  
on energy bills



Reduced CO<sub>2</sub>  
emissions



### Five simple steps to apply

- 1 Visit [salixfinance.co.uk](http://salixfinance.co.uk) and go to the 'maintained schools' section
- 2 Create an account
- 3 Complete the application form
- 4 Submit your application online
- 5 Salix will undertake a technical assessment and award funding

To apply or for more info, please contact  
**[schoolsapplication@salixfinance.co.uk](mailto:schoolsapplication@salixfinance.co.uk) or 020 3102 6903**

\*This figure is based on an average maintained school project size of £25,000.



# The Sea Starts Here Campaign



**Young designers help launch schools' campaign to 'Keep the Sea Plastic Free'** TWO young designers from a Leicester primary school have helped launch a new campaign to raise awareness of the impact of litter on the environment.

Muhammad (4) and Thomas (5) from Overdale Infant School, in Knighton, were the winners of a schools' competition to design promotional materials for the 'Sea Starts Here' campaign. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the impact that plastic waste can have on the wider environment if it is not disposed of correctly. Plastics dropped as litter can end up in our rivers and oceans causing pollution and harm to wildlife, as well as contributing to increased flood risk in rivers and brooks. Muhammad and Thomas's winning designs combine images of sea creatures with their hard-hitting slogans 'Only Rain Down the Drain' and 'Keep the Sea Plastic Free'. The designs have been turned into stencils that will be used to spray the message around drains close to schools across the city.

The winning designers were also on-hand to supervise the first stencilling of drains in their school grounds. Hayley Holmes, headteacher at Overdale Infants School, said: "Teaching our children to take care of their environment is really important to us. We have an active Eco Club who promote an environmentally friendly approach. "The 'Sea Starts Here' event has helped the children understand the impact of plastic waste and the need to recycle. They were very enthusiastic about the competition and it gave the school a platform to enhance our eco message to the wider school community."We are very proud of all children who entered the competition and are thrilled with Thomas and Mohammad's winning designs."

It is hoped that the Sea Starts Here campaign will be supported by up to 20 schools in its first year, as part of the city's successful Eco-Schools programme.



**Supports the Eco-Schools Marine and litter topics**



# Young People's Climate Assembly

Monday 27 January 2020



Leicester City Council declared a climate emergency in February 2019 and between November 2019 and February 2020, we ran Leicester's Climate Emergency Conversation giving people and organisations in Leicester their chance to have a say on our ideas for the council and the wider city to tackle the climate emergency, and to suggest ideas of their own. As part of this we hosted the Young Peoples' Climate Assembly at City Hall. We had over 100 participants from 13 schools across the city. The day featured speakers from different organisations;

- Keynote presentation by James Veness, Energy Consultant for School Energy Efficiency
- Travel and Transport by Dave Clasby, Sustrans
- Our Choice as Consumers by Claire Lerpiniere, De Montfort University
- Green Space and Trees by Judy Ling Wong, Black Environment Network
- At home, at Work and at School by Richard Smith, Ashden

The day was a great success and findings from the day are being used to help us develop Leicester's Climate Emergency Action Plan. The headline findings outlined below:

- Using a 'Climate Assembly' approach allowed the council to engage in detail with a diverse group of local school students who, in many respects, reflected the wider city.
- Participants identified that many of the proposed actions offered potential benefits for health, wellbeing and community engagement.
- The impacts of the costs of actions and changes in personal behaviour were among the most significant concerns with the proposals.
- There was generally a good level of support for most actions, taking into account the concerns and barriers raised.
- Some of the highest priorities were; improved education about climate change, replacement of petrol or diesel vehicles to ultra-low emission vehicles and the design, manufacture and selling of products that use sustainable materials.
- Overall there was a very high level of support among participants for Leicester to take urgent action on the climate emergency.
- Participants were also very strongly supportive of using a similar 'People's Assembly' approach to look at other important issues in Leicester in the future.



# Tree Planting Day at Belgrave St Peter's C of E Primary School

**Belgrave St Peter's CE (VA) Primary School** would like to give a really big, 'Thank you!', to everyone for their help and support on their Tree Planting Day in December 2019.

Children & staff from Nursery through to Year 6, parent-helpers and school Governors all helped out on the day and planted 133 trees!!

An extra special thanks to Bethan Painter from 'Enstruct Training' who applied for funding from 'Trees for Cities' and delivered the event throughout the day. Bethan started the day with a whole-school assembly on the importance of planting trees and living walls for protecting life.

They planted a variety of 2-year-old native trees around the school grounds, including hedging (a living wall) around KS1 playgrounds. It was a really enjoyable day, and Bethan remarked how well the pupils listened to instructions and how enthusiastic they were! Excellent work!



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



## National Schools Partnership

The [National Schools Partnership](#) have a wealth of free resources to make learning fun for students at home, as well as fun activities that can be done in a classroom setting.

Here are just a few examples of the creative, curriculum-linked programmes:

- Help pupils understand the importance of washing their hands with Dettol 's [Handy Helpers](#)
- Inspire pupils to discover the importance of a healthy, balanced diet, building a love for fruit and vegetables with [BEAR'S](#) free and exciting resources
- The Great Indoors, creative [indoor activity ideas](#) from the Scouts. Activities will keep your pupils learning new skills and having fun in the home
- Bring the world of science, design and technology alive for pupils with [BP's](#) engaging resources and online activities



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





# The Big Spring Clean 2020

**\*\*Rescheduled to 11-27 September 2020\*\***

So far this year, more than 650,000 volunteers from local authorities, charities and businesses have promised to give time, enthusiasm and excitement.

**However, the first priority is to make sure everyone stays safe and well so, with no small measure of sadness, KBT have taken the decision to postpone this year's Great British Spring Clean until September and will be running the Great British September Clean from September 11 - 27.**

We will be asking that instead of cancelling your clean-ups, you look to reschedule for the new campaign period. In 2019 over 175,055 inspiring children and young people took part, compared to 126,000 last year - making it the biggest-ever school clean up! They were part of a mass-action of over 563,163 volunteer #LitterHeroes who took part in our Great British Spring Clean. Together, they collected 957,377 bags of litter, equal to 4,308 tonnes, from our country's schools, streets, parks, beaches and waterways - litter that could otherwise have ended up in the ocean.

Stand by for more information on how you can get involved in 2020 - 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 are open now!](#) As part of Leicester's commitment we will be taking part in the Leicester Litter Less campaign with over 20 schools out litter picking during this time. 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 Wednesday 22 April 2020.

**Don't forget even if you aren't a Litter Less school you can still take part in the Great British Spring Clean!**



*Supports the Eco-Schools litter topic*

## Fairtrade resources in your home



All of Fairtrade's learning resources in the [Fairtrade Schools Resource Library](#) are free to download. Please share with anyone who might find these resources useful, whether it be parents, students or teachers.

### **NEW! Home Learning filter**

Find these resources by using the new '[Home Learning](#)' filter in our resource library. This will help you find all the resources that are easy to use at home, including films, activities and games.

### **NEW! Home Learning Challenges**

Enjoy films as a family and complete the accompanying '[Home Learning Challenges](#)' for some educational fun! From Fairtrade fashion designing to writing Fairtrade recipe books, there is something for everyone...

Each challenge includes **eight fun learning ideas** for children to try at home. These activities are flexible, open-ended and are designed to keep young minds engaged whilst developing key skills. Keep popping back to the site as **more resources** will be added!



*Supports the Eco-Schools global living topic*

# Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots



Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Awards recognise achievements in helping people, animals and the environment. There are three categories; a general category gives bronze, silver and gold awards to the best school projects to commend your hard work, the prestigious The Jane Goodall Award for Individual Endeavour and the Best Photographic Entry.

Winning schools will receive a free 12 month subscription to National Geographic Kids magazine whilst finalists will win a National Geographic Kids book bundle. In recent years we have had several schools attend the annual awards which take place in London (at the Barbican or London Zoo)

To submit a projects simply [register](#) on the Roots & Shoots website and post a story for your school. You can post as many project updates as you wish!

## How to find out more

Lee Jowett

☎ 0116 454 2271

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



*Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics including healthy living, school grounds, marine and waste*

# International School Grounds Conference 2020

National school grounds charity Learning through Landscapes is to host an international conference on outdoor learning and play in September 2020. In partnership with the International School Grounds Alliance, the three-day event is to be packed with practical workshops and learning from the UK and beyond.

Matt Robinson, Director of Training for Learning through Landscapes comments: "We are here in Scotland to showcase the best of outdoor learning and play. We are now seen as a country who is leading in many related areas – through our policies and practice around play, outdoor learning and learning for sustainability". He continues "outdoor learning has always been a powerful learning context and motivator for pupils. The recent global climate strikes demonstrate that to engage children in global issues in a personal and local way has a significant impact – and school grounds are about as local, accessible and engaging as you can be".

The event has three main streams of workshop – early years, primary and secondary schools and design of outdoor spaces. Over 300 attendees are expected from across schools and early years settings in the UK and beyond.

You can find out more about the conference at [www.ltl.org.uk/projects/isga2020/](http://www.ltl.org.uk/projects/isga2020/)



**24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>  
September  
2020**

Learning  
through  
Landscapes



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



# #EcoSchoolsAtHome

In order to help support those of you still working in school and those of you who are now having to home school we wanted to create a new set of Eco-School resources that could be adapted to enable you to work on a variety of environmental topics with young people of any age – whilst juggling a million and one other tasks and difficulties due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Let's call the programme Eco-Home for now...

Every Tuesday at 8.00pm for the next 10 weeks we will be releasing a new Eco-Schools Topic hand-out that will include 5 different topic related tasks that can be undertaken both at home and in school – the first of which is [Biodiversity](#).

You may or may not be aware that Eco-Schools is the largest educational programme in the world – with nearly 70 different countries running the programme. Like in us in England nearly all of these countries have now had to close their schools in order to slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Therefore our global Eco-Schools 'family' are encouraging schools, pupils and families to share with us their eco-home schooling on social media using #EcoSchoolsStayHome and #EcoSchoolsAtHome. We would love you to do the same when carrying out our different topic actions, therefore please make sure to @ us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Insta](#) in any photos you post. It definitely makes working from home a lot more fun and rewarding for our team to see some smiling faces! We may even consider launching an Eco-Schools Tik Tok if this goes well...

**Biodiversity**

**#EcoSchoolsAtHome**

**Palm Oil**

Acres of Rainforest are cut down everyday to produce palm oil leading to a loss of habitat for many endangered animals.

**How many products containing palm oil can you find in your home?**

Nursery	Primary	Secondary/College
Do any of these items have the sustainable palm oil logo? Count the number of logos you can find.	Research the effects of palm oil and write a persuasive e-mail to one of these companies encouraging them to switch to sustainable palm oil or stop using palm oil altogether.	Use the internet to research alternative products containing sustainable (or no) palm oil.

**Plants**

We love them!

**Find a plant you can adopt either in your house or garden.**

Nursery	Primary	Secondary/College
Name your plant! Find out what plants need to grow, does your plant have everything it needs?	Name your plant, then find out its botanical name. Use the internet to research how to look after your plant, does it get enough sunlight (or too much)? How frequently does it need watering and how much water does it need? Does it need staking?	Name your plant and find out its botanical name. Use the internet to find out if it has everything it needs. Have a look at plant adaptations, how have plants adapted to live in rainforests or deserts?

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/ecoschoolsengla/biodiversity-topic/>

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



Supports the Eco-Schools school grounds and biodiversity topics 

## Polo the Bear Board Game



### The Adventures of Polo the Bear Board Game

Polo is bear on a mission to understand climate change and help everyone do something about it. Now you can help Polo on his journey around the world and learn more about climate change! Author Alen Hesse is offering educational comics and board game about problems and solution for free at <https://climatebear.com/free-resources>. All that is required is a printer, some card and one die.

**PROBLEMS**

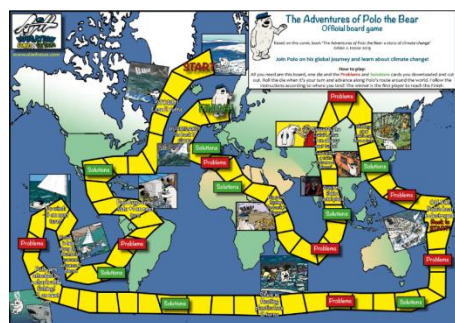
Heavy industry such as oil extraction and most factories pour lots of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, creating the Greenhouse Effect. This causes global warming.

**Go back 6 places!**

**SOLUTIONS**

People living in rural areas that often get flooded, like in Bangladesh for example, have learned to adapt by building their houses on stilts, and tying old jerry cans onto bamboo frames to hold their floating gardens.

**Take 2 turns!**



Supports the Eco-Schools marine, litter and recycling topics





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