



Schools' monthly eBulletin

Visit the schools extranet site schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

April 2020



Please do forward to colleagues – there's something for everyone this month! We can add colleagues to the monthly mailing list – they just need to email us at Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk

Dear Colleague,

Hope this eBulletin finds you and your family well. We just wanted to let you know that we are **both still around and available** to speak to you and colleagues in school over the phone, video calls and as always on email. We'll also maintain ebulletins, newsletter and our social media channels. **We've also added some EcoTeach Webinars which start after Easter!**

Eco-Schools England are still working remotely and able to provide any advice and support to schools as required. They are also **accepting Green Flag applications** throughout the summer term. The main difference being no assessor visits – therefore schools can apply and be approved for their Green Flag application (including renewals) **through the online application process only.**

Do take care and always, if you need any help or support email or contact us, Lee and Amy

- Lee.Jowett@leicester.gov.uk
 - Amy.Peace@leicester.gov.uk
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[April Sustainable Schools Newsletter](#)

The latest newsletter can be downloaded from the schools' extranet.

It contains information about:

- Young Peoples' Climate Assembly
- Salix Finance information
- LRWT Short Story Winner
- The Sea Starts Here Campaign
- The Big Spring Clean 2020 ****NEW DATE****
- Carbon Literacy offer for schools
- Air Quality Experiments

Schools Sustainable news April 2020 LEICESTER

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 children at home. We will **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 on-site support, schools are able to engage through termly #EcoFactories, staff training, resource planning & workshops, assemblies, Eco-Schools conferences & celebration events and can keep up to date through its 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 (OTL) has been identified as 'memorable activities leading to memorable learning and positively contributing to pupil safety'. LCC provides positive benefits to all groups of young people and supports a rich, relevant, broad and balanced curriculum.

Eco-School Awards
Schools can register for Eco-Schools for free at www.eco-schools.org.uk/register. There are 3 levels of award: Bronze, Silver and Green Flag which were updated in September 2018.

At Bronze level your school has set up an Eco-committee, carried out a theme, 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.

Green Flag Award and renewals*
Abby Road Primary Academy
Barley Croft Primary School
Catherine Junior School *
Elsmere College
Monrose School
Nether Hall Special School
Queensmead Primary School
Stokewood 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

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

Year	Green award	Silver award	Bronze award	Registered
2013/14	10	0	0	0
2014/15	15	0	0	0
2015/16	20	0	0	0
2016/17	25	0	0	0
2017/18	30	0	0	0
2018/19	35	0	0	0
2019/20 to date	48	0	0	0

How to find out more
Lee Jowett & Amy Peace
Environmental Education Team
Phone: 0116 454 2272, Leicester LCC team
E: eco-schools@leicester.gov.uk
W: [eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)
F: EcoSchoolsLCC
T: EcoSchoolsLCC
E: ecoeducation@leicester.gov.uk
T: 0116 454 2272 / 454 4543

Finished reading? Pass on to a colleague

[Earth Day 2020 – poetry competition](#)

We want children and young people from [Leicester Schools](#) to write a short poem which links to the theme of climate action.

It can be submitted via social media (tag us on Facebook/Twitter/Instagram) or email Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk – we can accept photos of hand written poems, typed or spoken audio/video

When submitting please state your school, if you submit by April 22 we will read some of our favourites out on social media.

Deadline to submit poems as part of the competition is **30 April 2020**.

Deadline 30 April 2020

Earth Day 2020

Earth Day is 22 April every year. April 22, 2020 will mark 50 years of Earth Day

The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action

We want children and young people from Leicester Schools to write a short poem which links to the theme of climate action.

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EnvEducationLeicester
EcoSchoolsLCC
EcoSchoolsLCC

Sustainable Leicester City Council LEICESTER

****NEW** EcoTeach Webinars**

Wednesdays at 10.00 – 11.00am, starting after Easter

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.

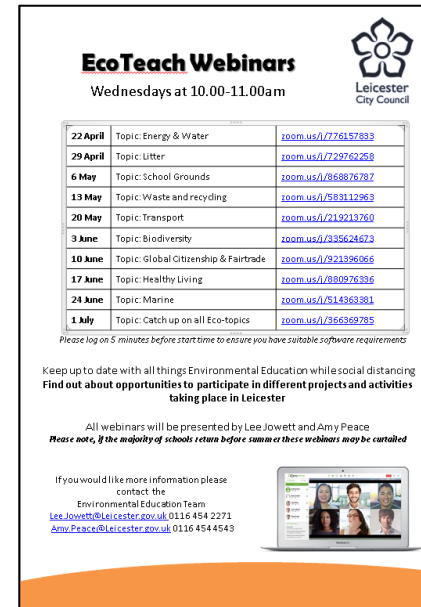
All webinars will be presented by Lee Jowett and Amy Peace with support from other colleagues.

(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 0116 454 2271

Amy.Peace@Leicester.gov.uk 0116 454 4543



The poster features the Leicester City Council logo at the top right. The main title is 'EcoTeach Webinars' with the subtitle 'Wednesdays at 10.00-11.00am'. Below this is a table listing the topics and Zoom links for each session from April to July. The table is as follows:

Date	Topic	Zoom Link
22 April	Topic: Energy & Water	zoom.us/j/7726157883
29 April	Topic: Litter	zoom.us/j/7729762268
6 May	Topic: School Grounds	zoom.us/j/868876787
13 May	Topic: Waste and recycling	zoom.us/j/563112863
20 May	Topic: Transport	zoom.us/j/719213760
3 June	Topic: Biodiversity	zoom.us/j/335624673
10 June	Topic: Global Citizenship & Fairtrade	zoom.us/j/921396066
17 June	Topic: Healthy Living	zoom.us/j/2080976386
24 June	Topic: Marine	zoom.us/j/514363381
1 July	Topic: Catch up on all Eco-topics	zoom.us/j/366369785

Below the table, it says 'Please log on 5 minutes before start time to ensure you have suitable software requirements'. Further down, it repeats the main message: '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'. It also states 'All webinars will be presented by Lee Jowett and Amy Peace' and 'Please note, if the majority of schools return before summer these webinars may be curtailed'. At the bottom, it provides contact information for the Environmental Education Team and includes a small image of a Zoom meeting interface.

Love Where you Live campaign

Don't forget our Love Where You Live campaign is still live over the next month and we will be promoting one of six videos 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

Videos can be seen online at:

- Twitter: www.twitter.com/EcoSchoolsLCC
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/EnvEducationLeicester
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/EcoSchoolsLCC
- YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3cF18ihR5QrffMzODaPKKQ>
- Website: <https://schools.leicester.gov.uk/litter>

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.





#EcoSchoolsAtHome

In order to help support those of you still working in school and those of you who are now having to home school [Eco Schools England](#) 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 two are [Energy](#) and [Biodiversity](#)

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 email 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

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 mowing?	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

Energy

#EcoSchoolsAtHome

What's a watt?

With most people (young and old) now working from home, more energy will be used.

Investigate your energy bill!

Nursery	Primary	Secondary/College
Look around your home and count how many devices you can find that use electricity.	If you have a smart meter, investigate it! Find out how much energy you use each day and when your energy use is at its peak – do you know why you use more energy during those peak hours? If you don't have a smart meter, take a meter reading at the same time each day to work out how much energy you use in 24 hours.	Either read your smart meter or take meter readings to work out how much energy is used in your house each day. Check online whether your energy use is above or below the average energy use in the UK and in other countries around the world.

Watt can you save?

Simple changes can help you to save money on your energy bills.

Save electricity!

Nursery	Primary	Secondary/College
Investigate what electrical devices are switched on in your house, discussing whether they need to be switched on, how many lights during the daytime, no!	Audit energy use in your house, if any devices are left on standby, when not being used, switch them off! Make sure phone chargers are unplugged or turned off at the wall when not in use. Make sure lights are off during the daytime! See if you can reduce your energy use this week.	Use the internet to research how you can save energy at home and share this information with your household e.g. wash at 30 degrees (or less).

www.eco-schools.org.uk

[10 Air Quality Experiments for the Classroom or Kitchen](#)

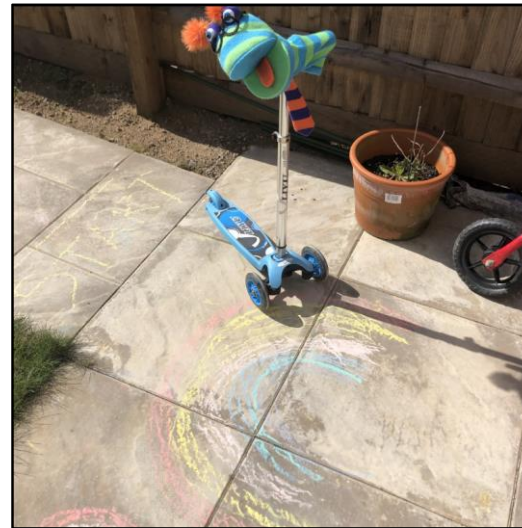
[Air Quality Education](#) is no longer just for school, since being sent home we've been busy working away to find you some practical and theoretical activities that can be undertaken anywhere, with minimal resources – and using what you find around the home or classroom. All activities and resources 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 with your thoughts.



[Young Vet Club – Daily Fun](#)

Every day of the working week (even through the holidays), you'll find a new challenge on our website; quizzes, puzzles, crafts and more. The daily activities are designed to challenge young minds and help develop different skills. The challenges will help kids improve their research, creative, literacy and communication skills whilst being able to use their imagination and most importantly, have **FUN!**

THE BEST PART: Each challenge is simple to complete and only requires basic household items so can easily be done at home or in the classroom. What's more, it's **FREE** to participate, making it possible for all families to join in the fun!

The challenges went live this week so you can join in any time you would like. Please pass on the link in your newsletters or the emails you send home to parents so that the children who are working from home can join in.



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You are receiving this email because it provided information about Environmental Education. We send monthly eBulletin and termly newsletters.

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