



Schools' monthly eBu

Visit the schools extranet site schools.leicester.gov.uk

November 2020

Welcome to the **November Sustainable Schools Leicester eBulletin**. We hope you had a relaxing half-term break and this month we have a host of events, activities, projects and competitions for you.

Our biggest event this half-term is **Climate Action Fortnight** during **9-20 November**. We will be live each morning of the fortnight will be tackling an Eco-Schools topic with a climate emergency slant each day and featuring special guest speakers, activities and challenges for students and training opportunities for staff. All content will be hosted online via Microsoft Teams Live and be uploaded to the [EcoSchoolsLCC YouTube channel](#) to be accessed at any time. Keep up to date with the programme on the extranet at schools.leicester.gov.uk/climateactionfortnight2020.

Upcoming events and competitions:

- [Climate Action Fortnight Launch Assembly](#) – Wednesday 4 November 2020
- [Sustainable Schools Celebration](#) – Monday 9 November 2020
- [Climate Action Fortnight](#) – Monday 9 November - Friday 20 November 2020
- [Climate Emergency #EcoTeachMeet](#) – Wednesday 11 November 2020
- [Litter Less Campaign](#) – Training Friday 13 November (booking required)
- [Food for Life Food Waste Webinar](#) – Wednesday 18 November 2020
- [Grow Your Own Grub](#) – *coming soon!!!*

This term will see many adjustments in school however we are available to support you and colleagues in school over the phone, video calls and as always, on email. If you haven't already seen Eco-School England have adapted some of the criteria – take a look in the newsletter for more information.

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

- Lee.Jowett@leicester.gov.uk
 - Amy.Peace@leicester.gov.uk
 - Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk
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[Climate Action Fortnight, 9 – 20 November 2020](#)

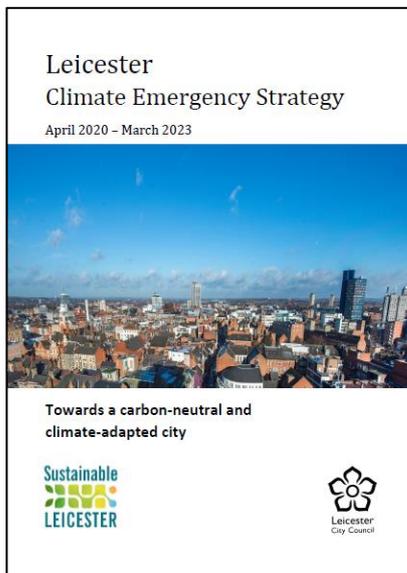
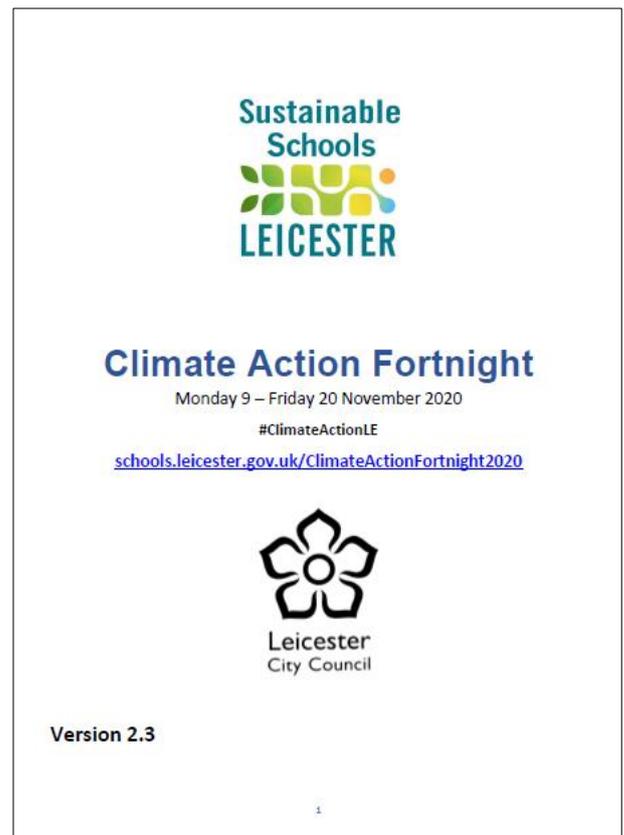
The fortnight will tackle an Eco-Schools topic with a climate emergency slant each day and feature special guest speakers, activities and challenges for students and training opportunities for staff. All content will be hosted online via Microsoft Teams Live and be uploaded to the [EcoSchoolsLCC YouTube channel](#) to be accessed at any time.

The event is aimed at all schools in Leicester City and schools can choose to participate at the time or when convenient. We expect schools to connect with the climate action fortnight in year groups due to working in year group bubbles.

Commencing on **Monday 9 November**, the fortnight will also feature the Sustainable Schools' Celebration and culminating on **Friday 20 November** with an 'in-school' strike by creating a social media-based protest.

Download the booklet and find out all about the events taking place via the website:

schools.leicester.gov.uk/climateactionfortnight2020



[Leicester City Council's Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan](#)

Our Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2020 to 2023 has been produced following extensive public consultation and engagement including the 104 young people that attended the **Young People's Climate Assembly** who spent a day discussing the Climate Emergency at City Hall and over 200 pupils from primary schools who gave us their ideas through the Primary School Conversation Packs.

The comments and ideas from the public and extensive research by us has contributed to our new strategy and action plan to address climate emergency in Leicester. The strategy provides some high-level detail explaining what actions we need to take and presents a three-year strategy for addressing the emergency, along with a three-year action plan.

The documents can be found on the council website: leicester.gov.uk/your-council/policies-plans-and-strategies/environment-and-sustainability/climate-emergency/

**Climate Emergency
#EcoTeachMeet Leicester
Wednesday 11 November 2020**




Leicester City Council

Online on [Microsoft Teams](#)
Wednesday 11 November 2020
4.30-6.00pm

Presentations from colleagues on the impact of environmental education, projects and activities happening in Leicester, with a focus on the climate emergency.

All school staff welcome!

If you would like to present or take part book your place now:
[ClimateEmergencyEcoTeachMeet](#)

If you would like more information, please contact the Environmental Education Team Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk 0116 454 2271/4543/6746

 EnvEducationLeicester
 

 @EcoSchoolsLCC
  schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

Training and Networking Opportunities – November 2020

- **Climate Emergency #EcoTeachMeet** - Wednesday 11 November 2020, 4.30 - 6.00pm [online via Microsoft Teams](#).

The EcoTeachMeet will present lots of different projects in the city including sustainable transport, global learning, energy saving, recycling and projects being delivered by Leicester Schools – book a 5 or 8 minute slot to present via this online [form](#).

If you would like to present something you have done in school that would be great - otherwise just come along to learn something new!

- **Food for Life Food Waste Webinar** – Wednesday 18 November , 4.30 – 6.00pm [online via Microsoft Teams](#).

Lisa Didier from Food for Life will be putting on a food waste webinar supported by Avenue Primary School.

All school staff and like-minded organisations are welcome to come along! Book your place [now](#).

[Surfers Against Sewerage - Plastic Free Schools](#)

A change making pupil led education programme.

This ground-breaking programme equips and empowers young activists with the tools to create positive, lasting environmental change.

1. Sign up your school or nursery and get access to a system shaking, change making pupil led education programme.
2. Access your programme and resources
3. Complete your objectives
4. Achieve plastic free schools status

Register your schools on the website

plasticfreeschools.org.uk/register-your-school/





[Tree Planting for Schools](#)

Plant an orchard in your school and be a #ForceForNature

Order a free pack of fruit-bearing, wildlife-enhancing, carbon-storing orchard or fruiting hedgerow for your school now!

The Tree Council are giving away free orchard and hedgerow packs to inspire teachers and pupils around the country to get outdoors, plant and care for trees. Teachers will also receive an engaging set of resources, designed by experts and teachers, all linked to the national curriculum.

There is a comprehensive guide [webinar](#) for planning a successful orchard project at your school presented by Richard Pollard, National Schools Programme Manager and partners Lewis McNeill from The Orchard Project and Mary Jackson from Learning Through Landscapes.

Before you apply:

Read the [application guidance](#) to help you plan your project. You might also find the [Learning Through Landscapes guide to planting a school orchard](#) helpful.

Read the [Orchards for Schools](#) pledge – a shared commitment to plan, grow and care for the trees planted together.

[Sustainable Schools Celebration Evening](#)

Monday 9 November 2020, 7.00 - 8.30pm

With over six years of environmental education running in the city, this is the second Sustainable Schools Celebration evening, a biennial event to celebrate the hard work and commitment of schools in Leicester.

Nominees have been made by school staff and by members of the environment, health and wellbeing group throughout September and early October 2020. The group is made up of nearly 50 professionals who work within Leicester City Council or organisations that provide environmental or health services to schools in partnership with the council. In mid-October the group selected the winners for the evening.

This year's event is broadcast via [Teams Live](#)

Sustainable Schools Celebration
For the environment, our health and well-being

Monday 9 November 2020
Via Microsoft Teams Live

Official invitation

Sustainable Schools LEICESTER

Celebrating the dedication of staff, students, parents and volunteers in Leicester Schools. Winners from over 25 categories will be presented.

Event starts at 7.00pm

Keynote speakers:
Judy Ling Wong CBE
President of the Black Environment Network (BEN)

James Cashmore
Director of Food and Farming, Soil Association

Event will finish by 8.30pm at the latest

Join on the evening via this [Microsoft Teams Live link](#)
(via PC/Mac, phone or tablet)

Evening kindly supported by
The co-operative
Central England Co-operative

Please note Microsoft Teams Live is a broadcast system – therefore you do not need a camera or microphone



[Litter Less Leicester](#)

It's back for the fourth year! The Litter Less Campaign educates children and youth around the world on the issue of litter and gives them the opportunity to engage their local communities in awareness-raising activities.

The Litter Less Campaign is a joint initiative of the Mars Wrigley Foundation and Foundation for Environmental Education. Since its launch in 2011, the Litter Less Campaign has educated over three million students around the world about the challenges of litter and waste in their communities and empowered them to become leaders driving sustainability and positive behavioural change.

We are recruiting 20 new schools to participate this year. To register your interest, fill out this [eForm](#). A small number of schools that previously applied can participate again (however funding is not available for returning schools) – but do get in touch!

Training for new schools will take place on Friday 13 November.

The Eco-Schools Litter Less Campaign

The Litter Less Campaign, led by Eco-Schools aims to reduce litter and affect long-term behaviour change through implementing a waste management system, which involves the whole school.

Training: Friday 13 November 2020
1.00-3.30pm- for new schools
Via Microsoft Teams – link shared nearer the time

Who would benefit from this project: All school staff with an interest in reducing litter in and around their school including, teachers, support staff, senior leaders and Eco-Schools leads, school business managers and site managers
A small number of schools that previously applied can participate again (however funding is not available for returning schools) – but do get in touch!



Why participate?

- Use strategies & activities to engage your staff and students to reduce litter in and around the school ground
- Receive funding to run a campaign and litter pick in and around your school grounds
- Learn how to apply for the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award and use project evidence to support this

Your school commitments

- Attend online training on Friday 13 November 2020
- Purchase equipment for litter picking and/or raising awareness (funding provided)
- Assessment of your areas and decide on a certain litter item to focus on for the campaign
- Bespoke action plan of events for the project
- Carry out 6 litter picks in and around the school grounds
- Use at least 3 different lesson plans linked to litter and waste built into the curriculum (these will be provided)
- Invitation to attend the celebration event at Abbey Park (with children) on Thursday 22 April 2021 (Earth Day!) or virtual celebration via Microsoft Teams (depending on social distance rules)
- Complete a short case study (200 words) after the event with a couple of photos – (template provided)

 Supports your Eco-Schools litter topic and awards
This free project is free and open to all schools in Leicester

To book your place please book via our [eForm](#) or email Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk



Footkin needs your help to stop the spread of Coronavirus

#WashWashChallenge

[Click Here to Help Footkin](#)

The Wash Wash Song

Wash my hands and clean my nails,
I'm the winner virus fails.

Wash, Wash, Washie, Wash, Wash, Wash

First you make your two hands wet,
Then some soap and you're all set.

Germs germs germs go away,
I keep my hands clean today.

Wash, Wash, Washie, Wash, Wash, Wash

Rub rub rub while the tap is off,
Rinse rinse rinse it rinse it off.

Germs germs germs go away,
I will do this every day.

[Mind your footprint #WashWashChallenge](#)

The rapid spread of the Coronavirus around the world has affected millions and we want to help the children of the world to take back some control over their own personal health and safety with this campaign to make it more fun to wash their hands.

Speaking with our partner organisations, we can fully appreciate that many children have developed anxieties around the virus. As schools reopen, fears are being exacerbated and it will only take a few Covid-positive cases in schools to send a class or a whole-year bubble home. We are much more vulnerable to a return to homeschooling than we might think. We have created the Wash Wash Challenge to encourage children to get washing and to bring their friends along with them!

We believe that we can always do more to make a difference and, as we move into the next stage of the pandemic, we've developed something to help children control the virus and play their part in helping to reopen schools and keeping them open throughout the Autumn and Winter and we need your help!

The [Wash Wash Challenge](#) is a social media campaign where we use the power of singing, fun and music to encourage children to wash their hands properly and for the right length of time, as advised by the NHS and World Health Organisation – and then to nominate their friends to join in. **Why not get your class or your children to become part of this groundbreaking global hygiene campaign that could benefit millions all over the world?**

[Grow Your Own Grub](#)

We were very sad to cancel our 2020 Mealbarrow competition BUT we have already started to plan this year, with adaptations to allow for changes in school.

The Mealbarrow competition is a great way to incorporate healthy living and mental well-being into the school day as well as highlighting your growing activities to the wider school community.

We'll send out more details in December's eBulletin so watch this space...!



What is the Healthy Start scheme?
Healthy Start helps you give your family the very best start in life. The means-tested scheme provides vouchers to buy some basic foods and vouchers to swap for vitamins.

Use your vouchers with local retailers to buy:

- Plain cow's milk
- Plain fresh or frozen fruit and vegetables
- Tinned fruit and vegetables
- Infant formula suitable from birth
- Plain tinned or dried pulses

And you can get FREE vitamins too

- All pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged from birth to four years need important vitamin supplements. You will be sent green vitamin coupons with your vouchers.
- Your midwife or health visitor can tell you where you can swap your voucher for vitamins in your area.

As of 1 October 2020, the vouchers can be used to buy pulses and tinned fruit and vegetables.
Fruit and vegetables: Fresh, frozen and tinned fruit and vegetables including loose, pre-packed, whole, sliced, chopped or mixed fruit or vegetables, fruit in fruit juice, or fruit or vegetables in water, but not those to which fat, salt, sugar or flavouring have been added.
Pulses: Fresh, dried and tinned pulses, including but not limited to lentils, beans, peas and chickpeas but not those to which fat, salt, sugar or flavouring have been added.

Am I eligible?
You qualify if you are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four years old and you or your family get certain benefits.
You are also eligible if you are under 18 and pregnant.

How do I apply?
You can find the application form on the Healthy Start website, which you will need to print and complete. The application form should then be posted to the Healthy Start Issuing Unit (freepost address found online). Find the form at <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>
As of 6 April 2020, a health professional signature is no longer required.

HEALTHY START

The Healthy Start scheme

Healthy Start helps you gives families the very best start in life. The means-tested scheme provides vouchers to buy some basic foods and coupons to swap for vitamins. Use vouchers with local retailers to buy:

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- Plain fresh or frozen fruit and vegetables
- Tinned fruit and vegetables
- Infant formula suitable from birth
- Plain tinned or dried pulses
- FREE vitamins

Eligibility

You qualify if you are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four years old and you or your family get certain benefits. You are also eligible if you are under 18 and pregnant.

How to apply?



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[Learning through Landscapes Training](#)

Curriculum-led outdoor learning and play INSET training for teachers and early years educators.

LtL has 30 years' experience offering successful, face to face training for educators at all stages in educational settings across the UK and have now adapted their training offer in response to Covid-19.

Covering:

- strategies for teaching impactful curriculum-led outdoor learning
- practical techniques for building and maintaining outdoor routines
- inspirational ideas for simple grounds changes to enhance outdoor learning and play
- proven benefits of outdoor learning and play

Upcoming courses include:

- **Bioprofiles – new ideas for secondary school environmental learning - [Wednesday 4 November](#)**
- **Beelines workshop – [Tuesday 24 November](#)**

For further information email enquiries@ltl.org.uk



[PECT](#)

The charity's autumn-themed Nature's School resources aim to bring families together and enable them to discover more about the environment. The resource activities include everything from guides to making a Leaf Lantern, Mini Beast Hotel, Pumpkin Decorating, Tree Seed I-Spy and many more.

"Many areas of the country are currently in lockdown, nationwide restrictions are in place, and everyone is looking for alternative ways to entertain and educate their children," explains PECT's Environmental Education Lead Heidi Latronico-Ferris. "Here at PECT we are doing

PECT Nature's School - In Autumn Simple mini activities you can do at home to enjoy, appreciate and protect our natural environment. Visit www.pect.org.uk/services/education for additional information and to find out how to guides.				
1 - Spider webs are beautiful individual pieces of art. Why not explore one and recreate your own?	2 - Before electricity we used lanterns to bring us light. Have a go at making your own nature lanterns.	3 - It's just as fun to play in the rain as it is in the sun! Put on your coat and wellies and jump around in muddy puddles.	4 - Garland and bunting are a lovely way to decorate for a special occasion. Welcome autumn by making one from natural materials.	5 - Have you ever grown a tree from a seed? All the pine cones are falling from the trees. See if you could grow a new tree from one.
6 - There are many patterns in nature - create your own wild weaving.	7 - The game of conkers has been around since 1848 and was invented in England, have you ever played?	8 - Leaves have all sorts of shapes and details to them. Capture this by making a print or rubbing of all the different ones you can find.	9 - Autumn brings us many foods. See which ones you can find. (Always make sure you know what something is before you eat it!)	10 - Go on an autumn colour hunt and see how many different colours you can find.
11 - Create your very own autumn animal from the natural things you have found.	12 - Animals & mini beasts are starting to get ready for the winter. How many can you spot before they hibernate?	13 - Give a mini beast a home for the winter. Put an old piece of carpet outside to keep them warm or make a bug hotel.	14 - The trees are all losing their leaves, so why not create your own natural art and decorate their empty branches.	15 - A medium sized apple is made of 25% air! That means they can float - have a go at bubbling for apples in a bowl of water.
16 - Stand under a tree and see if you can catch a falling leaf!	17 - Create a kite out of things you might otherwise throw away and fly it on a windy day.	18 - This is the time of year for tree seeds. Go on a seed hunt and see how many different seeds you can find.	19 - Why not warm up by having hot chocolate and marshmallows by a campfire?	20 - Create a pile of leaves and run, jump and lay in them. You can even make leaf angels!
Autumn Pumpkin Challenge -				
21 - It's that time of the year when we look forward to carving or painting a pumpkin. Have a go at creating a unique design.	22 - Go on a pumpkin trail in your area and see how many you can spot on doorsteps and in windows.	23 - Pumpkins are food! So have a go at making something delicious to eat from the inside leftovers of your pumpkin.	24 - There is something else in the middle of a pumpkin. Why not plant the seeds to see if you can grow your own for next year?	25 - When you have finished with your pumpkin it can still be used. Add it to your compost bin and it won't go to waste.



our bit to help children and their families try to make sense of it all.”

She continues: “Our local environment is sometimes an unexplored natural resource, often overlooked for its wealth of possibilities, and not always appreciated or looked after as it should be. Take this time to turn that around and discover natural wonders, learn from Nature’s School, and in return protect it for future generations.”

Nature’s School is not just for families – schools, charities and other organisations can also benefit from this resource and use it to create new ways of delivering the curriculum and learning objectives.

To access the resources, simply visit pect.org.uk/projects/natures-school-in-autumn or find PECT on Facebook [@SustainablePECT](https://www.facebook.com/SustainablePECT).

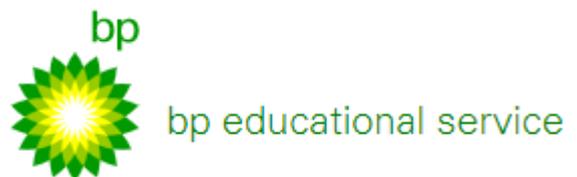
[The Ultimate STEM challenge is back..](#)

...and this year it aims to immerse pupils in the theme of biodiversity! The decline of biodiversity has a dramatic effect on all living creatures, including humans, and the way they interact. That’s why this year’s Ultimate STEM Challenge invites young people across the UK to get creative and design a home for nature, using natural and technical solutions, to improve biodiversity in their local community.

The new, free resources are designed to support the science, geography, design and technology and computing curricula and are perfect for socially distanced classrooms, at home and remote learning. The free resources can be spread across primary and secondary year groups and include easy to use lesson plans, engaging homework activities and video lessons with wildlife presenter, Michaela Strachan. You will also find an entry form and all the details on how to enter this year’s prestigious competition.

Competition overview

The challenge is open to pupils across the UK and the entries will be judged by age group. The competition is open to ages 9-11 and 11-14 and can be entered individually or as a group. There are fantastic prizes for the winning pupil(s) and their school. The pupil/team with the most creative and innovative design will win £3,000 to bring that home for nature to life, while the runners up will receive £1,000 each to make their designs a reality. Competition closes on 3



March 2021. Visit the website for further details
bpes.bp.com/ultimate-stem-challenge



[Walk to School resources](#)

The walk to school is the most accessible way to reduce congestion and pollution outside the school gates, while increasing the safety and improving physical and mental wellbeing of pupils. Fewer cars outside school also creates more space for families to physically distance at drop off/pick up time. Living Streets are working with over half of Leicester's primary schools to improve their active travel rates through the WOW scheme and they have availability for more schools to join the programme free of charge this academic year.

If you're interested in finding out more and would like a chat and online demonstration of how the scheme – and their WOW Travel Tracker – works, please get in touch with Katie and Sarah at katie.france@livingstreets.org.uk / sarah.smith@livingstreets.org.uk.

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