

Schools news

January 2021



What is Eco-Schools Leicester?

Leicester City Council has a dedicated Environmental Education team based in the Sustainability Team who provide *free* support to schools to help them become more sustainable in all that they do.

As well as one-to-one support and environmentally linked projects, schools can engage through termly #EcoTeachMeets, staff training, resource planning & workshops, assemblies, Eco-Schools conferences & celebration events and can keep up to date through dedicated social media, 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 (LOT) has been identified as 'memorable activities leading to memorable learning and positively contributing to pupil safety'. LOT provides positive benefits to all groups of young people and supports a rich, relevant, broad and balanced curriculum.

Welcome to the January Leicester Schools newsletter.

Happy New Year!!

As we were writing the last January newsletter we had little idea what the coming year would hold. The challenges that schools have come up against have been profound but you have risen to them and battled through. Thank you for your continued dedication and hard work. We think you are all amazing!

As we look forward to the next year we hope that life becomes a bit easier and that focus can shift to the future. We have some exciting projects lined up and we can't wait for you to be involved.

As always get in touch if you need any support, Lee, Amy and Marc.

Sandfield Close Primary School

Environment, Health and
Wellbeing School of the Year
2020-21

Sandfield Close were nominated in 13 categories by 5 different people for the Sustainable Schools Celebration and won 3 categories on the night. Sandfield close are always first to volunteer for a project or activity and ensure that their children get the very best life chances.

As a school they have worked tirelessly to promote healthy living and eating to the children, their families and the community. They have informed their children and parents about the need to be interested in environmental issues and make small changes that have a big impact. During lockdown they kept their projects going and these are celebrated on their school's website. They have hit the ground running this academic year with an ambitious Global Learning Goals project for Science on Stage whereby the whole school will research difference Sustainable Development Goals and create a school rally.

A huge congratulations to Sandfield Close Primary School!!!

How to find out more

Lee Jowett / Amy Peace / Marc Tench
Environmental Education Team

Phoenix House, King Street, Leicester LE1 6RN

✉ Eco-Schools@Leicester.gov.uk

schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

[EcoSchoolsLCC](#)

[EcoSchoolsLCC](#)

[EnvEducationLeicester](#)

☎ 0116 454 2271 / 4543 / 6746



Follow the work that
Sandfield Close do
on Twitter [@SandfieldClose](#)

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

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 normally visited by an external assessor at a mutually agreed time.



Jane Gadsby – Stokes Wood Primary School

Environment, Health and Wellbeing Individual of the Year 2020-21

Jane is an inspirational leader that supports students and staff in her school. She is committed to ensuring that everyone achieves in Stokes Wood Primary School. Jane always goes the extra mile. The judges were able to hear from so many members of the environment, health and wellbeing group about how their area is supported by Jane.

Congratulations Jane on this fantastic achievement!

Since September 2021

Bronze

Castle Mead Academy

Green

Glebelands Primary School*

Mowmacre Hill Primary School

Overdale Junior School*

Overdale Infant School*

Whitehall Primary School*

Charnwood Primary School*

Mellor Community Primary School*

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

***renewals**

Correct as of 01/01/2021

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 26 April 2021**. 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

Taylor Road Catering Team

Environment, Health and Wellbeing Team of the Year 2020-21



The team worked throughout the whole of the lockdown period including school closures providing hot meals for vulnerable children, key workers children, meals for the homeless and food parcels for schools and vulnerable young people. The team also provided the packed lunches for the volunteers undertaking the COVID testing in Leicester. The Taylor Road team is always flexible and approachable despite all the current difficulties.

Congratulations for all the hard work that you have done over the last few months!



Dates for your diary – Eco events

Event	Event Summary	Further details (date/time/location)
RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch	We're all finding our way in this strange new world, but there are some constants – for example the Big Schools' Birdwatch, which is now in its 20th year! Register today to get your fantastic pack: rspb.org.uk	5 January – 22 February 2021
Virtual Carbon Literacy Training for School Staff, Governors & Trustees	This equivalent one-day course will enable participants to be carbon literate and support them deliver their own course back in school. This cost of this training is £10 per person to cover accreditation	Wednesdays 20 & 27 January, 3 February 2021, 4.30 - 6.30pm each day (you need to attend all 3 sessions to pass) <i>Online via Microsoft Teams</i>
Eco-Schools Governor & Trustee Training 2021	This training, delivered by Leicester City Council will support your understand of the Green Flag award. We'll also discuss how to declare a climate emergency in school and how as a Governor or Trustee you can support the school or MAT to reduce their carbon footprint.	Tuesday 12 January 2021 4.30 – 6.00 pm <i>Online on Microsoft Teams</i>
Fairtrade Fortnight	2020 has been a hard year and we know that physically campaigning and meeting people will continue to be challenging as we head into the new year but we have also heard from so many of you that you want to continue to support Fairtrade through this time.	22 February to 7 March 2021
#EcoTeachMeet - Student Takeover	In a slightly different format, we want to throw out next EcoTeachMeet over to the students of Leicester. Do your students have project that would like to share? If so please complete the interest form here . All are welcome to attend to catch up on what is happening in Leicester. Sign up here .	Wednesday 24 February 2021 3.30 – 4.30 pm <i>Online via Microsoft Teams</i>
Grow Your Own Grub and Pumpkin Garden competition 2020-21	The food growing competitions are a great way to encourage food growing in the school community.	Grow Your Own Grub information Pumpkin Garden information Deadline for registration is Friday 26 February 2021 and will be filled on a first come basis.
Litter Less Leicester Day of Action 2021	Litter Less Schools march on Abbey Park	Thursday 22 April 2021
Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration event	An opportunity to showcase the fantastic work which Leicester Schools have done over the academic year.	June/July 2019 (all day) Exact date and venue to be confirmed, aiming for face to face.

Eco-Schools Governor & Trustee Training 2021

In Leicester there are over 100 schools registered on the Eco-Schools programme with 90 at bronze, nearly 80 at silver and 53 Green Flags. This training, delivered by Leicester City Council will support your understand of the Green Flag award. We'll also discuss how to declare a climate emergency in school and how as a Governor or Trustee you can support the school or MAT to reduce their carbon footprint.

Tuesday 12 January 2021 Online on Microsoft Teams
4.30pm – 6.00pm (link will be sent the week before)

Free and open to all schools in Leicester City

Eco-Schools is a global programme which provides a framework for learning and action around 10 environmental topics. It is free to register for Eco-Schools and to apply for Bronze and Silver awards. A cost applies for Green Flag accreditation, however there are several sponsorship schemes in Leicester.



Why attend?

- Gain a greater understanding of the updated **Eco-Schools** criteria and **how to declare a climate emergency in school**
- Find out how your school can link with **Eco-Schools and similar environmental programmes** local and nationally
- Understand the role of the **Environmental Education/Eco-Schools link governor/trustee**
- **Learn more about the Let's Go Zero 2030 campaign** to make schools carbon zero

Who would benefit from this course?

Any governors who have taken on the responsibility as Environmental Education/Eco-Schools Environment link as well as those who are interested to find out more



To book your place please complete this [eForm](#)
For questions please email Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk

Sustainable Schools Celebration 2020

COVID couldn't prevent us from celebrating all the wonderful people that work, attend and volunteer at schools in our second Sustainable Schools Celebration evening, a biennial event to celebrate the hard work and commitment of schools in Leicester. The virtual event took place on Monday 9 November and featured wonderful keynote speakers Judy Ling Wong, painter, poet and environmentalist best known as the Honorary President of Black Environment Network (BEN) and James Cashmore, Deputy Chief Executive Officer at the Soil Association.

Nominations were 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.



Category	Nominee	School
Overall - Environment, Health and Wellbeing School of the year	Sandfield Close Primary School	
Overall - Individual of the year	Jane Gadsby	Stokes Wood Primary School
Overall - Team of the year	Taylor Road Catering Team	
Active Travel Champion	Natalie Sutton	Sandfield Close Primary School
Active Travel School	St Marys Fields Primary School	St Mary's Fields Primary School
Biodiversity Champion	Jane Hauton	Nether Hall School
Community and Parental Engagement Champion	Jayson Taylor	Catherine Junior School
Cooking Champion	Christine Race	Bridge Junior School
Cooperative Values Champion	Nazmin Moti and Anisha Ismail	Leicester Islamic Academy
Energy Champion	Sue Pears	Avenue Primary School
Food for Life Champion	Sue Pears	Avenue Primary School
Forest School Champion	Kathy Humphries	Belgrave St Peter's Primary School
Global Learning Champion	Leicester- Nepal Connecting Classrooms Cluster - Chris Bounds, Sharon Downes, Artee Odedra, Sheena Adatia, Rachael Stevens, Thelma Williams	Mayflower Primary, Inglehurst Juniors, Uplands Infants, North Mead Primary Academy, Rushey Mead Primary, Linden Primary
Growing Champion	Hannah Boydon and her allotment team	Mayflower Primary School
Health and Wellbeing Champion	Jane Westmoreland	Spinney Hill Primary School
Healthy Eating Champion	Nitisha Pankhania	Sandfield Close Primary School
Litter Champion	Emily Henson	New College, Leicester
Mental Health Champion	Julie Eyden / ELSA group	Mowmacre Primary School
Parent	Alison Johnson	Belgrave St Peter's Primary School
Pastoral Champion	Saida Salloo	Land of Learning Primary School
Pastoral Champion	Kelly Stone	Mellor Community Primary School
Premises Officer/Site Supervisor	Simon Ingall	Queensmead Primary Academy
Reducing or Recycling Champion	Anne Scott	Overdale Junior School
Senior Leader	Jane Gadsby	Stokes Wood Primary School
Sports Leader	Liz Broughton	Mellor Community Primary School
Student	Dhwani Jitendra	Mellor Community Primary School
Student	Anay Adatia	Sandfield Close Primary School
Teacher	Anita Dennis	Barley Croft Primary School
Teacher	Linda Bradshaw	City of Leicester College
Teaching Assistant	Shabin Ikram	Abbey Mead Primary Academy
Volunteer	Saroj Suri (Nanny Rose)	Sandfield Close Primary School
Water Champion	Kieron Maher	Rolleston Primary School



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



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

Leicester's Mealbarrow Extravaganza



The Mealbarrow competition is a great way to encourage food growing in the school community. Schools participate by creating a 'mealbarrow', so even if you don't have a designated growing area you can still enter. The competition is open to any Leicester school and can be done with an individual class or gardening club.

FREE Training course: Thursday 11 March 2021, 4.00 - 5.30pm
Online via Microsoft Teams

Who would benefit from this project: All schools interested in growing and cooking



Why participate?

- Combine creative culinary skills and gardening, your school is challenged to design a three course menu and grow a minimum of 5 ingredients in your Mealbarrow along with your own growing area. Mealbarrows are then showcased (Covid permitting).
- Raise awareness of healthy eating and cooking in your school. Use as part of your Food for Life and Eco-Schools Awards
- Receive recognition with **Bronze, Silver or Gold Grow your Own Grub Award** for published criteria on your extended growing area
- Attend a free virtual food growing training **4.00-5.30pm - 11 March 2021** (recording available if you can't attend)
- You will need to provide compost, seeds and/or plug plants (*some seeds provided after the training*)
- You will need to reuse the wheelbarrow from last year, or upcycle an old wheelbarrow (ask around in school or get in touch if you are struggling)
- Design and submit a healthy 3 course menu by **19 May 2021** (judging takes place on **Thursday 20 May 2021**)
- Grow at least 5 of your ingredients in the **Mealbarrow**
- Deliver and collect the **Mealbarrow** to the event venue for the celebration day (Covid permitting) - **Saturday 3 July 2021** (support will be available)
- Host the judging team during your site visit to view your **Mealbarrow** and extended growing area (where available). Visits (or virtual filming) will be arranged for between **7-11 June 2021**.
- Advertise the competition and the celebration day to parents & families via school newsletters and the school's social media channels



Supports your Eco-Schools *healthy living, school grounds and biodiversity* topics & Food for Life Award criteria

*This free event is **free and open to all schools in Leicester***

Deadline for entries is Friday 26 February 2021 and will be filled on a first come basis
Book your school's place via this [eForm](#) as soon as possible to confirm.
Any questions please email GrowYourOwnGrub@Leicester.gov.uk



Pumpkin Garden Competition



Join this years Pumpkin Garden Competition, encouraging students to grow pumpkins in the school grounds. There will be bonus points for how you use the squash and pumpkins as well as how you deal with the waste e.g. by composting. This opportunity is open to all schools (primary, secondary and SEN).

Who would benefit from this project: All schools interested in growing



The finer details...

- Please sign up by 26 February 2021 via this [eForm](#).
- By the end of **May 2021**, each school participating in the competition will be provided with the same selection of pumpkin and squash seeds and a downloadable guide explaining how to grow pumpkins and squash. It is intended that the plants are started off in class and then grown in the school grounds in a designated area.
- In **November 2021 to be in with a chance of winning** you will need to submit a selection of photos and a brief report (which can be done by the students) of the garden which shows the evolution of your garden from planning and planting to cooking and eating and final disposal of your pumpkin shells. The report template is provided as part of the downloadable guide.
- As part of the competition you are encouraged to design the garden on a theme of your choice. There will be prizes for first, second and third place.



As part of the competition we will be providing information about composting and recipes with support from Carryoncomposting.com

Supports your Eco-Schools *healthy living, school grounds and biodiversity*

This free event is free and open to all schools in Leicester



Deadline to participate is Friday 26 February 2021
Book your school's place via this [eForm](#) as soon as possible to confirm
Any questions please email GrowYourOwnGrub@Leicester.gov.uk

Climate Action Fortnight



We had such a great time hosting our first **Climate Action Fortnight!**

Each morning we featured amazing speakers talking about the Climate Emergency with a different theme. Each presentation lasts between 30-45 minutes. They are available to watch on [YouTube](#) and can be viewed using the links below with your class or as a home activity at any time.

We hope that you enjoyed the fortnight too and got to take part in many of the activities. Please send us your stories to Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk so that we can share them with the Leicester school community.



DOCUMENTARY MEDIA CENTRE



Climate Action Newsroom

If you've not had chance to see the Climate Action Newsroom – its well worth taking a look. Available now on Facebook, Tina and John interviewed:

- Lee Jowett – Environmental Education Leicester
- Cllr Clarke – Deputy Mayor
- Millgate School – Climate Newsroom
- Andy Salkeld – the new eBike scheme
- Gerhard Haas – Climate Activist
- Environmental Youth Board – Faith and Jasmine
- Kavita Ashok – who works with young people in India

Whatever it takes to tackle climate change

If you are quick you can still enter the poetry competition which closes on **Friday 8th January.**

Inspired by the brilliant poems in the collection 'Be the Change' and the ideas of poets Matt Goodfellow, Liz Brownlee and Roger Stevens, the team at Whatever it Takes has joined forces with Environmental Education Leicester and would like to invite you to enter our amazing poetry competition.

[See the extranet for full details](#)



Whatever It Takes

Climate Action Fortnight

Climate Action Fortnight

Monday 9 – Friday 20 November 2020

#ClimateActionLE

schools.leicester.gov.uk/ClimateActionFortnight2020



Version 2.3

Climate Action Fortnight, resources available online

In case you missed anything during our Climate Action Fortnight, information is available on the schools extranet. All content was delivered online via Microsoft Teams Live and is now available on our [EcoSchoolsLCC YouTube channel](#) to be accessed at any time.

Download the booklet and find out all about all the events that took place via the website: schools.leicester.gov.uk/climateactionfortnight2020

Daily Presentations

Monday 9 November - Global Citizenship	Tuesday 10 November - Biodiversity	Wednesday 11 November - Healthy Living
Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cliff Adam Clarke - Deputy City Mayor, Leicester Lola Payakula - UK Student Climate Network Sereytha Solanki - freelance advisor on climate justice 	Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mya-Rose Craig - Birdgirl Sarah Staunton-Lamb - Earthwatch Europe Trailer of The Promise 	Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess Mhasuria - Leicester City Council Aamir Hussain - University of Leicester Lisa Didier - Food for Life
Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon foot printing countries Fairtrade - climate change/climate justice Sustainable Schools Celebration Evening 	Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening of The Promise - a 20 minute film, with a workbook to create a morning of nature connection activities 	Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon miles for food activity Climate Emergency #EcoSchoolWeek - 4.30 - 6.00pm

Global Learning

Biodiversity

Health Living

Thursday 12 November - Transport	Friday 13 November - Litter	Monday 16 November - Marine
Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah Smith-Living Streets Anna Singleton - Sustrans 	Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lee Wray-Davies - Eco-Schools England Cassie Kemp - Creative Learning Services 	Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alan Cameron - Flood Risk Team Cassie Kemp - Creative Learning Services Rachael Wright - The Marine Conservation Society
Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle, scooter and walk to school 	Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter pick around school grounds or local area Litter Less training 	Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine conservation activity Plastic pollution activity

Transport

Litter

Marine

Tuesday 17 November - School Grounds	Wednesday 18 November - Waste	Tomorrow - Thursday 19 November - Water	Friday 20 November - Energy
Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samantha Woods - The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) Martha Rose - Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Mary Jackson - Learning Through Landscapes 	Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lisa Didier - Food for Life Rita Tilley - Leicestershire City Council Matt Goodfellow, Liz Bromfield and Roger Stevens - Be the Change Potts 	Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phil Pearce - Severn Trent Water Laura Betts - LOROS Matt Goodfellow, Liz Bromfield and Roger Stevens - Be the Change Potts 	Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex Green - Ashden, LESS CO₂ Daze Aghaji - climate activist The Team - Climate Strike planning
Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design your own ideal playground 8 easy minibest habitats children can make in the school grounds 	Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spunk Art "Baking Rabbit" Schools' food waste activities Waste free lunches Make a 70-litre bag Food waste webinar - 4.30-6pm Lisa Didier from Food for supported by Leicestershire Primary School 	Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much water do we use at home? Water footprint calculator Water challenges - waterzai Documentary Water Cycle - Newcomen - 1.30pm via Facebook (@thefoodleicester) 	Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon foot printing Declare climate emergency Hosting an "in-strike"

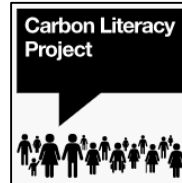
School Grounds

Waste

Water

Energy

Virtual Carbon Literacy Training for School Staff, Governors & Trustees



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 school staff and students to become carbon literate. This equivalent one-day course will enable participants to be carbon literate and support them deliver their own course back in school

Training: Wednesdays 20 & 27 January, 3 February 2021
4.30-6.30pm each day (you need to attend all 3 sessions to pass)

Training Delivered online via Microsoft Teams

Who would benefit from this project: All school staff and governors with an interest in becoming carbon literate, especially those involved in teaching about climate change and the climate emergency in Years 5 and 8.



Why participate?

- Gain a **better understanding of how climate change will affect you and those around you**
- **Become an accredited Carbon Literate individual**
- Acquire knowledge and skills to develop your own responses to lowering your carbon footprint, and the carbon footprint of others
- Gain knowledge of delivering a course about basic climate change science to your students
- Help to enable students to become **carbon literate**

Your commitments

- Attend all three **training online training events** in January/February 2021
- Complete **feedback** about your experience
- Create at least **one significant action, as an individual**, to reduce your own personal carbon footprint
- Create at **least one significant action involving other people** to reduce the collective footprint of your workplace, community or place of education
- **Encourage your school to participate in carbon literacy** either by delivering training yourself or arranging for Leicester City Council to deliver in-house (at a future date to be confirmed)



This cost of this training is £10 per person to cover accreditation

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

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 the 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, making them carbon literate. This exciting project is being delivered in the 2020-21 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.

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



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



Rocket Round Leicester

During Climate Action Fortnight we heard from Laura at LOROS who told us all about the amazing rocket sculpture project that schools in Leicester can participate in.

The art trail will take place for 10 weeks this summer and your school will have the chance to participate by decorating a mini rocket as part of the trail. Once the trail ends, your sculpture will be returned to school.

To find out more and how to participate, watch this [short clip](#) (starting at 13 minutes) or go to the Rocket Round Leicester education [website](#).

The deadline to sign up is Wednesday 3 February 2021

How to find out more

For more information and to confirm your place on the Rocket Round Leicester Learning Programme, get in touch at rocketroundleicester@loros.co.uk



Supports all Eco-Schools topics

Pumpkin Garden Winners 2020

Although we were unable to host the Pumpkin Garden competition in all its glory this year, several schools managed take part with seeds sent out in the first lockdown.

We are pleased to announce that Mayflower Primary School and Children's Hospital School were joint winners. Congratulations!!! You can read more about their journeys below.



Mayflower Primary's garden was planted by key worker children during the first lockdown, and harvested by children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 6 when they visited the school allotment the autumn term. The garden was designed with raised beds for beans, cabbages, brussels sprouts, carrots and potatoes, and an open area for the pumpkins to roam. They were planted to grow horizontally as there was a large area to cover. They grew several varieties including Jack Be Little, Expert, Cornell's Bush Delicata, Butternut Squash, Sweet Dumplings (trailing) and some Sunstripe courgette. They all grew well, but the Expert seemed to really thrive in the space.

With their bountiful harvest that have had a variety of pumpkin curries and pumpkin cake. One of the pumpkins was taken home and made into a delicious Spicy Pumpkin Soup for the staff to enjoy as part of the RHS Campaign for School Gardening Big Soup Share.



Children's Hospital School garden was tended by students in KS3 and 4, Ms Whiteley, the caretaker and cook.

They decided to use brand new raised beds because they are really long and one of the students said that the pumpkins could trail all the way down the beds. All pumpkins were grown horizontally. Because of Lockdown the caretaker had to provide some care and watered them when needed.

They sowed Jack Be Little, but this only started to produce pumpkins late on in September. However the Expert variety worked really well. They all grew a successful crop of courgette and a massive marrow!!!! Two green pumpkins were used for soup and the large Expert for carving.



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

Lets Go Zero 2030



It only takes a few moments to join Let's Go Zero 2030, the national campaign demanding government backing for zero carbon schools. Every school that signs up is pledging to work towards a more sustainable future, while also urging the government to support this vital mission.

It's time to prove that pupils, parents, teachers and governors are united in demanding change. By raising our voices together, we are showing the overwhelming support for zero carbon schools up and down the UK – and how they can be the spark for community action to tackle the climate crisis. We are encouraging all schools in Leicester to participate – we have nearly 10 already! Governors or Senior Leaders need to sign up to the campaign.

We will be able to explain more about the campaign on the Governor and Trustee training.

More information is available on their [website](#) and Alex Green spoke at our Climate Action Fortnight [available here](#).

How to find out more

Lee Jowett

☎ 0116 454 2271









✉ Lee.Jowett@Leicester.gov.uk



Supports the many of the Eco-topics

What did you see?

How many birds of the same kind did you see at the same time?

 House sparrow I saw <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>						 Blackbird I saw <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>					
 Blue tit I saw <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>						 Robin I saw <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>					
 Starling I saw <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>						 Chaffinch I saw <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>					
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Your name

For more information, visit: rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch

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Big Schools' Birdwatch

We're all finding our way in this strange new world, but there are some constants – for example the Big Schools' Birdwatch, which is now in its 20th year!

Register today to get your fantastic pack, which has everything you need to make the Birdwatch enriching and engaging.

What's more, Big Schools' Birdwatch counts towards a Wild Challenge award, so you can really take learning into nature. **Submission for results is open between 5th January - 22nd February.**



Supports the Eco-Schools biodiversity topic

#EcoTeachMeet Leicester

Wednesday 24 February 2021



Online on [Microsoft Teams](#)
Wednesday 24 February 2021
3.30 - 4.30pm

Presentations from colleagues and children on the impact of environmental education, projects and activities happening in Leicester Schools.

If you or the young people from your school would like to present please complete the interest form [here](#) or get in touch.

All school staff welcome! Book your place now:
[**FebruaryEcoTeachMeet2021**](#)

If you would like more information, please contact the Environmental Education Team Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk



@EcoSchoolsLCC



EnvEducationLeicester



schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 is coming

Go to schools.fairtrade.org.uk for more information



Fairtrade Fortnight will run from **Monday 22 February to Friday 7 March 2021!**

In 2021, Fairtrade Fortnight will feel very different. 2020 has been a hard year and we know that physically campaigning and meeting people will continue to be challenging as we head into the new year but we have also heard from so many of you that you want to continue to support Fairtrade through this time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us more than ever how interconnected we are globally. This interconnection is at the very heart of the Fairtrade message and is where your role begins. You are part of the Fairtrade movement and you have the power to drive long term change not only with your shopping choices but with your support in spreading the message. We just have to do this a little differently in 2021!

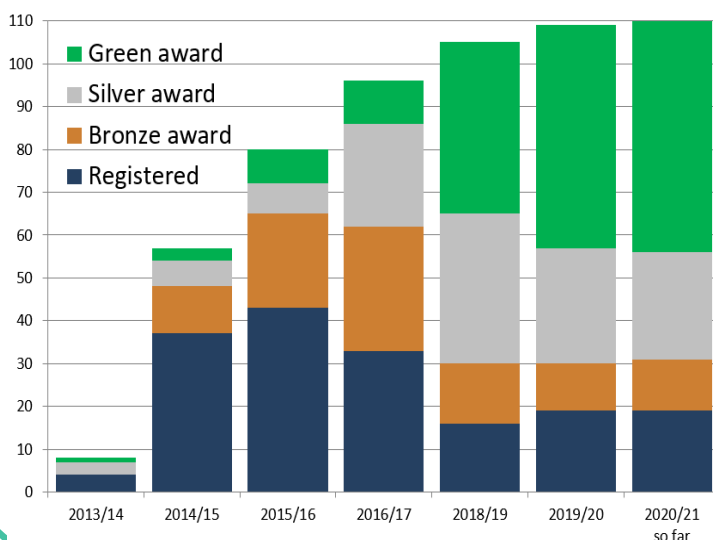
The 'Climate, Fairtrade and You' Education Packs have been produced for teachers and educators to discuss how the climate crisis affects farmers and workers overseas. Through assemblies (designed with social distancing in mind!), lesson plans and activities, young people will have the opportunity to discover how their choices can impact people around the world, but also the planet that we live on.

Visit the [Fairtrade Schools site](https://schools.fairtrade.org.uk) to download your Education Pack for Early Years, Primary schools or Secondary schools.



Supports the Eco-Schools global learning topic

We now have 54 Green Flag Eco-Schools in Leicester!



Leicester continues to lead the way with Eco-School Awards. As you can see from the graph, not only is engagement growing each year, the number of Green Flags continues to grow.

We are really proud to work with such inspired and inspirational young people and Eco-Coordination. Congratulations to everyone involved and keep up the excellent work!

Ashden Less CO₂



Would you like to join the fastest growing school energy programme in the UK?

Schools who have completed the LESS CO₂ programme, over one year, saved an average of 17 tonnes of CO₂ and 14% on their energy bills.

A recent LESS CO₂ school said that *"the programme fired-up the whole school to reduce CO₂ emissions. The staff who attended were inspired and brought that inspiration back to school to invigorate the whole school community."*

The **LESS CO₂ programme** is a free programme supporting schools across the UK to reduce their energy use, engage with their staff and students about energy, and teach about sustainability. LESS CO₂ is run by Ashden, a charity that champions and supports leaders in sustainable energy to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon world.

Staff from schools taking part in the programme attend **4 half-day workshops** spread across a year, each covering a different aspect of energy saving at your school.

Visit our [website](https://lessco2.org.uk) to find out more and sign up! lessco2.org.uk

How to find out more

Marc Tench

☎ 0116 454 6746

✉ Marc.Tench@Leicester.gov.uk



Supports the Eco-Schools energy topic

Climate Emergency Declared by Attenborough Learning Trust

ATTENBOROUGH LEARNING TRUST

Attenborough Learning Trust is the first trust in Leicester to declare a climate emergency in December 2020. The Trust has taken the action because:

- They believe that climate change poses a very great threat to the wellbeing of present and future residents of the city, and to Leicester's future success and prosperity.
- Cities including our own have been estimated to be responsible for about 70% of worldwide carbon dioxide emissions. We believe we have a responsibility to play our part in tackling the challenge.
- Leicester has a lot to gain from acting decisively now, rather than waiting for other cities and other countries to act first.

The Trust has put together an action plan to reduce carbon emissions and prepare for climate change including:

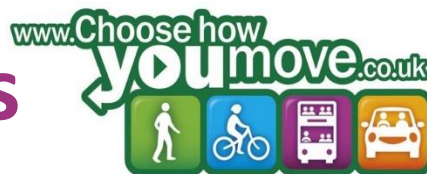
- Switching to renewable energy contracts on energy when they are renewed in all schools within the Trust
- Investigate options and install solar PVs on roofs (where funding allows)
- Investigate and install LED lights and other energy efficiency measures (where funding allows)
- Develop curriculum opportunities within and between schools to learn about sustainability
- Support current Eco-teams and establish Eco-teams in schools where they don't exist to lead on Sustainability
- Develop a trust wide sustainability policy and more detailed action plan
- Encourage all staff and students to participate in active travel (walking, cycling and scooting)

For more information and how to declare your own climate emergency please contact:
Lee Jowett, Sustainable Schools Coordinator Lee.Jowett@Leicester.gov.uk



Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics

eBikes for Schools



The Walking & Cycling Team from the Leicester City Council are proud to present 6 electric bikes for the use of businesses (which includes schools) as part of Transport Strategy's plan to encourage Leicester to be a cycling city!

Our commitments

- We bring you a fleet of 6 electric bikes with cycle bags and helmets on an agreed date & time
- We provide training for staff to help them use the e-bike
- We assist with an on-call option in case there are any issues.
- We give you a hire period of 4 weeks in total! eBikes are able to provide 15+ miles per full charge.

Enhanced support provided by Sustrans

- Personal Travel Planning – to help you plan the route that is best for you including use of keyworker corridors where appropriate
- Journey buddying – riding with you when you first give the route a go
- Use of a Sustrans helmet cam e.g. we can pre-film the ride to show you and or for you to record their ride to show clips of it to the students
- -Film interview with them which they can then show to their school students

Your commitments

- You provide time for staff to participate in training – typically 1-2 hours in an afternoon on the same day that the bikes and equipment is delivered
- You provide safe and secure bike storage on site
- Participants engage with students and staff to discuss challenges and benefits of eBikes e.g. through an assemblies or workshop
- Provide feedback after the month.

The cost of involvement in this scheme is £270 per school, however we can assist you with an applications for a grant to cover this. This cost covers equipment hire and training time.

If your scheme is successful with staff we can support with a further grant of £5000 to purchase eBikes to be used by school staff.



Example of eBikes provided

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

✉ Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk ☎ 0116 454 2271/4543/6746



Eco-Schools Adapted Criteria



Eco-Schools are aware that it may be impossible to achieve the required criteria given new regulations and ways of working. With this in mind they have adapted the criteria to enable your school to obtain your Green Flag Award. Full details can be found on the [website](#) and the key changes are summarised below.

Step One: Eco-Committee

Your Eco-Committee can now be formed from one year group or bubble.

- The Eco-Schools team understand that parents or other adult representatives may not currently be able to attend Eco-Committee meeting but meetings can be held virtually.
- Inform the whole school who is on the Eco-Committee in a way that is safe to do so (newsletter, Eco-Board etc).
- Remember to invite all the young people and school staff who helped out during lockdown on to your Eco-Committee.

Step Two: Environmental Review

This can now be carried out by one year group or bubble.

- Ensure sure the rest of the school know the results of your Environmental Review.

Step Three: Action Plan

- As this is a working document, do not worry if you have to re-think plans over the course of the year due to changes in school restrictions.
- Remember that not all actions need to have been completed in order to apply for your Eco-Schools Green Flag, we would just expect to see that implementation has begun.
- No eco-action is too small! If your grand plans have been cut back due to restrictions that is not a problem as long as you can undertake at least one action for each of the three or five Eco-Schools topics you have chosen.

Step Four: Curriculum Links

- No change, three examples from across different curriculum areas or year groups are still required.

Step Five: Informing and Involving

- If your Eco-Board has been removed due to school deep cleaning then you will be able to upload all the information you wished to display on your online Green Flag application.
- During this time, it might be difficult for actions to involve the whole school and wider community, the Eco-Schools team understands this and will accept evidence of actions involving only parts of a school.
- If you set eco-actions such as our #EcoSchoolsAtHome tasks to be carried during lockdown, please include these as evidence towards your Eco-Schools Green Flag.

Step Six: Monitoring and Evaluation

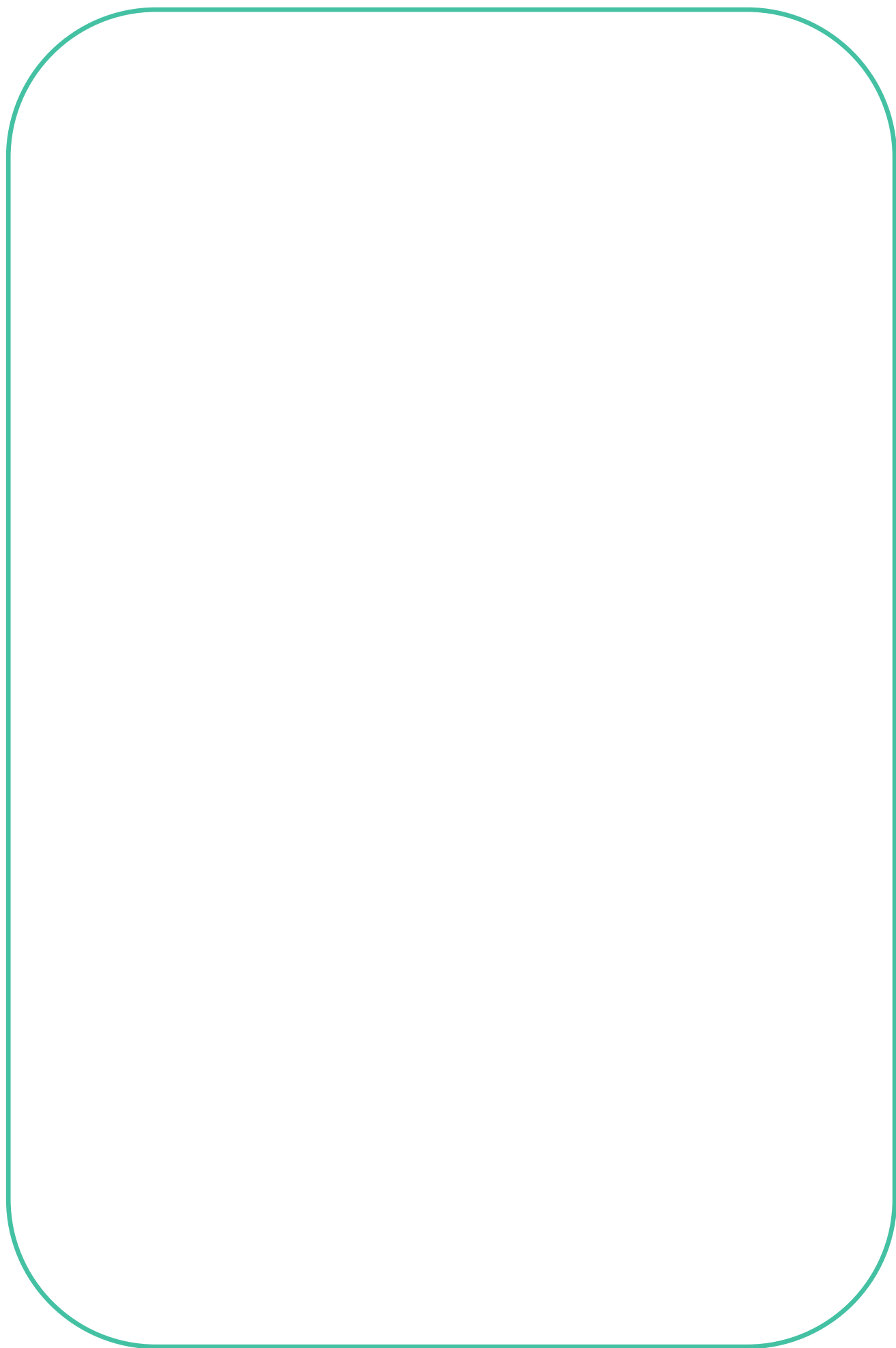
- This particular step has always been about reviewing and adapting, never has this been truer. Did your indoor plants wilt during lockdown? Did you miss out on your yearly sunflower competition? We want to know how you have adapted your Action Plan ideas, let's share this information to help others with their Eco-Schools work.
- Please remind your pupils not to be disheartened if their eco-actions have not gone to plan. Use this as a tool to help young people become more resilient, we are sure they will be more successful next time.

Step Seven: Eco-Code

- No change; although the whole school community may now not be involved in the creation of your Eco-Code, especially if applying for your first Eco-Schools Green Flag.



Supports the Eco-Schools criteria





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