

Schools news

April 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 April Leicester Schools newsletter. We hope that you had chance to bask in the sunshine (and snow!) during the Easter break. We have been busy making plans for the next term and are excited to get back into schools once more and seeing you when we are delivering Polli: Nation for the Next Generation (Polli:Gen), Summer Reading Challenge workshops and Carbon Literacy. We also welcome Hollie Campbell, our new Graduate Project Officer to the team. With our ever-expanding team, we have provided information of who is your best contact for projects and queries. You can find this on page 4. We'll continue to run online training – this term, getting back into Eco-Schools, Carbon Literacy and Earth Day which is 22 April 2021. Here's to an exciting term! **As always get in touch if you need any support, Lee, Amy, Marc and Hollie**

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MESSAGE TO DR. JANE GOODALL! On the 3 April 2021, Dr. Jane Goodall celebrated her 87th birthday! She is an incredible, inspirational woman who has inspired and motivated millions of people around the globe to live in greater harmony with nature and to take action on behalf of the planet we share. **We have worked with the Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots programme since 2014 and several schools have met Dr. Jane in London.** You can watch a birthday wishes video, featuring a very familiar face on [YouTube](#).

How to find out more

Lee Jowett / Amy Peace / Marc Tench / Hollie Campbell
Environmental Education Team

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✉ Eco-Schools@Leicester.gov.uk

🌐 schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

🐦 [EcoSchoolsLCC](#)

📷 [EcoSchoolsLCC](#)

📘 [EnvEducationLeicester](#)

☎ 0116 454 2271 / 4543 / 6746 / 4048



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.

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, however due to covid assessment are currently being done remotely.

Since January 2021

Silver

Uplands Infant School

Green

*Shaftesbury Junior School**

***renewals**

Correct as of 12/04/2021



Newsletter

Our newsletters are published 4 times per year. If you would like to submit an article for the next newsletter, the deadline is **Monday 28 June 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

Save the date!



17 June 2021



Leicester gets £25m boost for carbon reduction programme

OVER 90 council buildings in Leicester, including fifty-five schools, leisure centres, libraries and community centres are set to benefit from a multi-million pound programme of low carbon, energy efficient improvements.

Improvements will also be made to a number of council-run leisure centres, libraries, community centres and offices. In total, 37 non-school buildings will benefit from the programme, including De Montfort Hall which will see its stage and auditorium lighting replaced with energy efficient LEDs. Most buildings will also see the installation of solar PV panels to help generate low-cost renewable energy.

It is estimated that the overall programme could see over 2,800 new solar PV panels installed in total, enough to cover over 4,600sqm or all 18 championship courts at Wimbledon.

The new panels will help generate over 1.7million kWh of green energy per year. Read the full press release [online](#).

Eco-Schools Training

Getting back on track with your Green Flag

FREE Online Training course:

Wednesday 21 April 2021, 4.30-5.30pm
and a chance for an informal catch-up
afterwards, sign up [here](#)

- Are you wanting to get back on track with progress towards your schools Eco-Schools Green Flag?
- Has your Eco-Schools Green Flag lapsed and you are unsure what to do about it?
- Are you wanting to find out more about Eco-Schools and how to gain the Green Flag award?

If the answer to any of these questions is “Yes”, then come along and find out more!

In Leicester there are now 54 schools with the prestigious Green Flag Award putting us number one in England! This training, delivered by Leicester City Council, will provide top tips for working on Eco-Schools when you are working in bubbles, ideas for new projects, things that have gone well this year, things that maybe haven't and a chance to pair up with colleagues.



Who would benefit from this course?

Eco-leads and all school staff with an interest in environmental education - heads, deputy heads, assistant heads, classroom teachers, TAs, support staff, premises officers, business managers and governors/trustees.

The Eco-Schools programme provides exciting opportunities for students in curriculum time as well as outside the classroom. Learning outside of 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.

For more information please contact:

Environmental Education Team

- ✉ Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk
- 🌐 schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools
- 🐦 [EcoSchoolsLCC](#)
- 📷 [EcoSchoolsLCC](#)
- 📘 [EnvEducationLeicester](#)
- ☎ 0116 454 2271



Earth Day

Taking place 20-22 April 2021

This year, Earth Day is a three-day event to call for climate action, with the theme **Restore Our Earth™**. Live events are taking place across the world, so visit the [website](#) to find out how you can watch!

Earth Day Presentation for Leicester Schools

Thursday 22 April 2021

10am and 2pm



The environmental education team will be delivering two identical 15-minute presentations via **Microsoft Teams** followed by up to 15 questions and answers on this year's Earth Day theme.

Please complete this [eForm](#) if you would like your class, Eco-team or whole school to join!



Dates for your diary – Eco events

Event	Event Summary	Further details (date/time/location)
Eco-Schools Training: Getting back on track with your Green Flag	This training session will offer support for refocusing on your Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. We will discuss the current Eco-Schools criteria and provide suggestions for projects and be able to answer any questions you may have.	Wednesday 21 April 2021 4.30 – 5.30 pm <i>Online on Microsoft Teams</i> Book Here
Sustrans Big Pedal 2021	Register your school now for the UK's biggest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting competition!	Monday 19 April – Friday 30 April 2021
Earth Day 2021	Join the Environmental Education Team to celebrate Earth Day with two virtual half hour assemblies	Thursday 22 April 10 am and 2pm <i>Online on Microsoft Teams</i>
#EcoTeachMeet	Presentations from colleagues on the impact of environmental education, projects and activities happening in Leicester Schools. All school staff welcome! It is our intention to host this event in person however we will monitor the Covid-19 situation and switch to a virtual session if necessary.	Wednesday 5 May 2021 4.00 – 5.30 pm <i>Nether Hall School</i> Book Here
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.	Mondays 10, 17 and 24 May 2021, 4.30 - 6.30pm each day (you need to attend all 3 sessions to pass) <i>Online via Microsoft Teams</i> Book Here
Great British Spring Clean	Keep Britain Tidy and our partners are on a mission to clean up the UK, a #MillionMileMission!	Friday 28 May – Sunday 13 June 2021 Great British Spring Clean
Summer Reading Challenge 2021	Reading and Activity Workshops linked to this Summer's reading challenge 1.5hr physical workshops suitable for Years 2 - 6, including a book reading or review & environmental and literacy activities.	Workshops delivered in school Monday 7 June – Friday 2 July 2021
Grow Your Own Grub Celebration	Join us for the mealbarrow celebration featuring over 25 of the the excellent growing schools of Leicester schools	Saturday 3 July 2021 Time to be confirmed Abbey Pumping Station
Beat the Streets	Beat the Street is a fun, free walking and cycling game which gets staff, pupils and their families out and about in the local area, having fun and keeping healthy.	Wednesday 26 May – Monday 7 July

Roles and Responsibilities

With our expanding team we wanted to let you know who is best to contact for each project.
For all general enquires you can reach all of the team at Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk



Lee Jowett – Sustainable Schools Coordinator/team leader
Lee.Jowett@leicester.gov.uk / 0116 454 2271

- Salix funding – Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)
- Coordinating grants, funding and social value opportunities
- Green Fox – Power to Change
- DMU Graduates
- Air Quality Playgrounds
- PFI schools work
- Climate Declarations
- Climate Woods
- BESS Energy
- Beat the Streets

Amy Peace – Project Officer in Environmental Education (Full-Time)
Amy.Peace@leicester.gov.uk / 0116 454 4543

- Lower Carbon Lunches
- Carbon Literacy
- Polli:Gen
- Edible Playgrounds
- Young Peoples' Climate Board
- BESS Energy carbon reports
- eBikes for School staff
- Water Fountain competition
- The Sea Starts Here
- Plastic Free Schools
- Re-Think Food Towers
- Environment Agency SuDs
- Grow Your Own Grub and Pumpkin Competitions



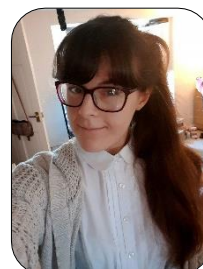
Marc Tench – Education Officer (Term-time, Monday/Wednesday/Friday)
Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk / 0116 454 6746



- Eco-Schools Awards
- Litter Less
- Ashden Less CO₂
- Let's Go Zero 2030
- Tree plantings
- BESS Energy – education support
- Tiny Forests
- Salix – education programme
- Reading Challenge workshops
- LOROS Rocket Round Leicester
- Polli:Gen

Hollie Campbell – Graduate Project Officer in Environmental Education (Full-Time)
Hollie.Campbell@leicester.gov.uk / 0116 454 4048

- eBulletins
- Newsletters
- Social media campaigns
- Promoting events
- Carbon Literacy
- BESS Energy carbon reports and support
- Botanica
- Roadshows & Celebration events
- Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots programme





Africa's Gift

Raise funds with shoe recycling to support Africa's Gift and learn all about Wonderbags

Raise funds via shoe donations to purchase Wonderbags! They can be used in your school kitchen as well as by students, staff and the wider community.

Wonderbags!

...a simple but revolutionary non-electric slow cooker!

Wonderbag is both portable and non-electric. You can take your Wonderbag wherever you go and enjoy healthy home cooked meals whenever you want. Simply bring your favourite dish to the boil and let the Wonderbag safely continue the cooking for up to 12 hours, retaining moisture, nutrients, and bags of flavour. It also insulates cold food over a longer period!

Donated footwear raises 40p/kilo, or Wonderbags can be purchased directly for the equivalent value of £45 (£5 less than the website).

Schools can also contribute to offsetting carbon by buying Wonderbags for use in Africa directly - this would cost £35 per African bag which would equate to two tons of CO₂ per year.

Although not guaranteed a place, Africa's Gift has made multiple applications to be present at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021. They are proudly collaborating with Doc Media Centre Leicester, Sheffield Hallam University, Wonderbag, and Leicester City Council's Environmental Education Team!

Find out more at www.africasgift.org

AfricasGift



info@africasgift.org



@AfricasGift



01709 717111



Next collection date in Leicester – Friday 28 May 2021

Shoe collecting can be part of your recycling work in school and doesn't have to link to a non-uniform day. At the moment collections can be made with no contact.

Climate Dice

In a world where climate change is an ever-growing threat to our future, children and young people across the world are experiencing rising levels of 'climate anxiety'. Our young people are worried about their future and frustrated about their ability to change things in the adult world. However, they are becoming more politically active and vocal on these issues. They are asking to be heard and they are asking for our help.

We've developed our own storytelling dice game, #ClimateDice as a way to talk to children about climate change issues, freeing their imagination to explore without boundaries and empowering them to vocalise their thoughts.

Playing the game is simple. Every dice set has pictures (instead of numbers) on each of the sides. Players take turns to roll the #ClimateDice using the pictures that land face-up to create their own stories. They are in control of the story and can take the conversation wherever their imagination wishes. #ClimateDice is designed to boost a child's imagination and help them to re-imagine an alternative better future.

We are launching a Kickstarter campaign with our charitable commitments at the heart of our goals. We want to reach as many children as possible so they can benefit from our #ClimateDice game.

If like us, you believe in the power of imagination to improve children's futures, we'd love your support. Become a supporter by making a pledge today to our Kickstarter campaign.

You can find out more at climatedice.com



Climate Dice



Stay in Contact

Follow us, Like and Share our posts and help us spread the word about #ClimateDice

Facebook [@ClimateDice](https://www.facebook.com/ClimateDice)

Twitter : [@climatedice](https://twitter.com/climatedice)

Instagram : [@climatedice](https://www.instagram.com/climatedice)

Pendar Vatanian

Co-Founder of #ClimateDice
PV@MindYourFootprint.org.uk



Supports all Eco-Schools topics

Lets Go Zero 2030



How to find out more

Lee Jowett

☎ 0116 454 2271

✉ Lee.Jowett@Leicester.gov.uk



**Supports the many of
the Eco-topics**

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](#).



Summer Reading Challenge 2021

WILD WORLD Heroes

Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.



This year's challenge will run in Leicester libraries 26 June - 31 August.
Stand up for the future of our planet by joining in a celebration of
reading, nature and action for the environment.

Free workshops delivered by the Environmental
Education Team with Leicester libraries

Monday 7 June – Friday 2 July 2021

A 90-minute workshop delivered in school suitable for
Y2-Y6, including a book reading or review and a mix of
environmental and literacy activities.

Workshop numbers are limited – one year
group per school.



Illustrations © Heath McKenzie 2021

Weekly challenges during the summer **12 July 2021 – 20 August 2021**

Mini challenges featuring a different environmental theme
each week will be featured on our [website](#) and social
channels alongside the Wild World Heroes!



If you would like more information or to book, please contact the
Environmental Education Team Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk as soon as
possible – the deadline for bookings is 29 April.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



WORKING TOGETHER TO
INSPIRE YOUNG
READERS TO STAND UP
FOR OUR PLANET

**THE
READING
AGENCY**

**SUMMER
READING
CHALLENGE**

Green BELLE



Leicester
City Council



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Energy costs are now more important to local businesses than ever, and green credentials are an increasingly important factor in securing new business and contracts. At the same time, the UK is committed to reducing carbon emissions to help the fight against climate change. In order to help local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) become more energy efficient and less carbon intensive, Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council have now launched a new round of funding for their successful Green BELLE project.

What is Green BELLE? Green BELLE offers grants of £1,000 to £7,000 to eligible businesses to install energy-efficient low carbon measures.

The grants are available to support measures such as efficient heating, lighting, and controls, insulation, renewable energy – for example solar panels or heat pumps – and other energy efficiency equipment such as replacement air compressors.

Green BELLE offers a capital grant of 50 per cent of the cost of these measures, up to the grant maximum of £7,000.

Green BELLE is run by Leicester City Council, with support from Leicestershire County Council, and is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Who can apply? To apply for a Green BELLE grant, your business will need to be a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) located in Leicester or Leicestershire. Please also refer to the eligibility criteria given on the Green BELLE [website](#).

How do I apply? For more information and to make an enquiry, visit the Green BELLE website www.greenbelle.org.uk, where you can fill in the online expression of interest form, by clicking the 'Apply Now' button. If you have any questions you can't find the answer to on the website, you can also give the Green BELLE team a call on 0116 454 2700 or email energygrant@leicester.gov.uk.

Sustrans Big Pedal

Register your school now for the UK's biggest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting competition!

Sustrans Big Pedal will run for 10 days from 19 – 30 April and is open to all primary and secondary schools in the UK, including SEN schools. Schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils, staff and parents making active journeys to school. It is free to enter and there are daily prizes to be won.

Whether schools are open or not, your pupils can participate. Pupils learning remotely can take an active journey from home or complete a physical challenge.

More information, and the registration form, is available on the Sustrans Big Pedal [website](#).



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

Wild Art Competition

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust are running a Wild Art competition, with the top prize being a wildlife-themed graffiti mural!

They are challenging Leicester city primary school pupils to create a piece of art that shows off our wonderful UK wildlife.

The artwork could be a drawing, painting, a collage or a sculpture – it just needs to be created flat on an A4 piece of paper and feature animals or plants found in the UK.

Each of the three winners will receive a brilliant set of art materials, as well as a prize for their school.

The deadline for entries is **Monday 14th June**, submitted by email.

For details on how to enter, and a full list of T&Cs, go to:

www.wildforestschool.org.uk/wild-art

The Wild Art competition is part of the Wild Forest School project, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.



Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust

WILD ART COMPETITION

Calling all budding artists at Leicester city primary schools!

Create a piece of wildlife art and get the chance to win some amazing prizes for you and your school!

PRIZES

- 1 A graffiti mural for your school featuring wild animals of your choice.
- 2 a chainsaw sculpture of your favourite UK animal for your school grounds.
- 3 A bumper pack of art material for your class.

All 3 winners will also receive their own art set, including watercolour and sketching pencils, oil pastels, brush pens and more!

DESIGN BRIEF

- The artwork must be 2D (flat) and created on a piece of A4 paper/card.
- Any materials can be used – e.g. paint, pencils, pastels, pens, collage – be creative!
- The artwork must feature wild animals or plants (big or small) that live in the UK.
- Along with your artwork, please write a few sentences telling us what animals/plants you have featured in your artwork and why you chose them.

HOW TO ENTER

Email scanned or photographed entries to education@lrwt.org.uk

Include a completed entry form with each artwork (downloadable from our website, below).

The deadline for submissions is 9 am on **Monday 14th June**.

For more information and a full list of terms and conditions, go to www.wildforestschool.org.uk/wild-art

The Wild Art competition is part of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust's Wild Forest School project, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Supported by players of **PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY**

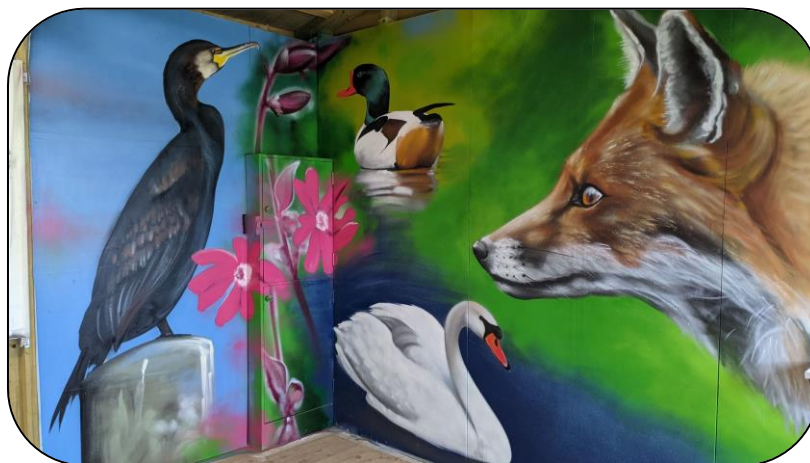
Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, The Old Rectory, 100, Lane, LE3 5DE. Registered Charity Number: 210531. Visit www.lrwt.org.uk for more information



Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust



Supports the Eco-Schools biodiversity topic



18 – 26
September
2021

Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots

Mission Updates



Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots programme is about making positive change happen – for our communities, for animals and for the environment. With tens of thousands of young people in almost 100 countries, the Roots & Shoots network branches out across the globe, connecting youth of all ages who share a common desire to help make our world a better place. Leicester schools have been sharing what they have been getting up to.

Dovelands Primary School We will be using the funding to develop planting within the school garden and around the school site (boundary fencing). Around the site, we will be planting hedging to both provide privacy but also promote gardening amongst the children. Within the school garden, we will continue to develop existing planting (trees and shrubs) but also develop the pond area further to encourage additional wildlife



St John the Baptist CE Primary School We are planning on improving our outdoor provision for the children and local wildlife.

We will be adding two ponds to our site; A wildflower meadow; Vegetable growing plots; A sensory garden.

Here is a map of the proposed project. Things have been challenging, but we have made a cracking start on our Roots & Shoots project. Photos below – one shows the installation of a pond, another is of our sensory garden and the third shows the growing beds that we have created ready to start the planting in the spring.

We are very much looking forward to the day when we get all the children back into school and we can get them all outside, learning about nature and growing their own fruit and vegetables.

Sandfield Close Primary School We are so excited at Sandfield. Thanks to Roots & Shoots we worked with our key Stage 1 children in year 1 and 2. Part of their science is to learn about plants that grow from seeds and bulbs. At the beginning of December, we were able to do a socially distanced lesson on bulbs for all the year 1 and 2 children. We learnt how the bulbs grow and how deep to plant them. Then, with wellies on, we planted them next to the school car park. We chose this area as it is not walked on by anyone, but we can all see it from the front of school. We are eagerly waiting to see some green spears appear. These will become daffodils and crocuses. With the older children, after lengthy discussions, we decided to plant some fruit trees. Sandfield has very few plants and trees that produce fruit that we can eat. We chose an apple, plum and cherry tree. Again, we planted them just before Christmas and can't wait to see if they have any flowers on this year.



**Supports the School
Grounds and Biodiversity
Eco-Schools topics**

Imperial Avenue Infant School Imperial Avenue Infant School is located in Leicester city. We are fortunate to have wonderful school grounds here at Imperial and we are looking to develop a specific area so that we can run a Forest School programme. I am currently doing my Forest School Leader accreditation. We have had some plans drawn up for us from the Wildlife Trust. As part of our plan, we would like to plant some wildlife hedging along the outside of the proposed Forest School area and perhaps add some different trees to our grounds.



Highfields Primary School We are a very inner-city school where lots of the children don't have access to outdoor space or have their own gardens. We have a small allotment where there are some things growing and it is used especially for growing some tomatoes and strawberries which we then get to eat! We would like to develop this area to be able to grow a greater variety of things but would also like to make it more inviting to bees and other insects by planting some bee friendly plants.

A bigger bug hotel is planned for the Foundation Stage playground where children can get involved in the building of it as well as using it as an investigative area to support their outdoor continuous provision.



*Supports the School Grounds and Biodiversity
Eco-Schools topics*

Climate Change Creative Competition



Climate Change Creative Competition is an online competition being run by the Young Creators Group at Leicester Museums & Galleries.

The theme is '**Climate Change and its Impact on Young People**'. With 7-11 and 12-17 age groups, they welcome creative entries that fall into any of these categories:

- Visual art
- Photography
- Written word
- Spoken word
- Video and film

There is a £25 gift voucher for one winner in each age group up for grabs, and a panel will choose 50 artworks to feature in an online exhibition on Leicester Museums & Galleries Website.

Deadline for entry is 26 April 2021 at 5pm.

How to find out more

Visit the competition [website](#) for a full list of rules and entry requirements.



*Supports all
Eco-Schools topics*

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: Mondays 10, 17 and 24 May 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)



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



Peat Free Campaign



In recent years, many Leicester schools are getting involved in tree and flower-planting projects on their grounds. However, have you ever stopped to consider if the compost you are using is doing more harm than good? Local grassroots environmental action group **Leicester Friends of the Earth** has started a new campaign to bring compost into question, as the environmental damage caused by extracting peat for compost is immense. It releases huge amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change. Peat bogs are also excellent areas of biodiversity, so peat extraction contributes to habitat and species loss.

To draw awareness to and combat this issue, the campaign is working to send letters to local garden centres to ask them to stop selling compost including peat. The intention is to create an online list of those which are selling peat-free compost to make it easier for people to find. Please contact Melanie from Leicester Friends of the Earth at melanie.wakley@outlook.com if your school is looking for alternatives to peat-free compost, or if you would like to be involved in the campaign.



Supports the Eco-Schools global learning and biodiversity topics



Beaumont Leys Project Bees Crowdfunder

Be part of creating community apiary at Beaumont Leys. Pledge £2 or more to support this project. Money will be taken only if the project will hit its target.

Mowmacre Hill Primary School is in the centre of their community and community apiary will help bring people together through beekeeping. Participants will learn new skills including: how to look after bees, about bees as an important element in the local nature, pollinator plants, how to prepare healthy food and much more. The project will work with people from different socio-economic backgrounds and support people with additional needs, the aim to improve participant wellbeing.

The community apiary will be based at the school and will be utilised by teachers and pupils to support the curriculum. Children will be learning about bees in practical sessions with the apiary a vital asset in children's learning as part of their curricular and cross-curricular activities in and out of school.



How to find out more

For more information visit the Spacehive [website](#).

Spacehive



Supports the Eco-Schools biodiversity and school grounds topics

Great Big Green Week

18 – 26 SEPTEMBER 2021 - A NATIONAL WEEK OF EVENTS CELEBRATING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK** 

 **THE
CLIMATE
COALITION**



The Great Big Green Week will be the largest event for climate and nature ever seen in the UK. Thousands of events are planned to celebrate community action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces, and encourage others to get involved too.

National organisations, institutions, businesses and media outlets will join in, getting more people involved up and down the country, and putting pressure on the UK Government to up its game on climate change.

Together we will call on politicians to raise their ambition and champion action on climate change.

To find or organise an event, visit the Great Big Green Week [website](#).

The 3 Engineers



The aim of The3Engineers is to raise awareness of environmental issues and provide content in the form of activity sheets, school resource ideas, and three tailor-made rhyming children's books. The trilogy is called **'The Adventures of Scout'**, with each book seeing Scout discover an environmental problem and exploring the causes behind it.

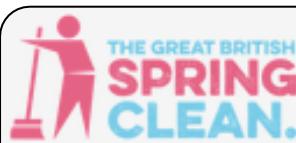


Currently, Scout has packed her bag to explore the issues of beach plastics, missing bees, and biodiversity decline. The books have also been designed and written to support the UK national Curriculum. Over 100 schools have trailed the book scripts, covering a wide range of lesson plans using the book resources as stimulus. Some recent examples include:

- Reading – aloud in front of an audience and recording, for all levels
- Illustrating the characters and scenes
- ICT skills to create their own version of the stories
- Discussions around the book subjects
- Artist lessons covered by creating themed aquariums to accompany an ocean themed day
- Stop start animations sharing storyboard

Listen to the audiobooks on The3Engineers [website](#) and follow them on their official [Instagram](#) to help fund 25,000 copies of the first book, with the intent to provide a copy to every Early Years and Primary School in the UK.

Great British Spring Clean



Keep Britain Tidy and our partners are on a mission to clean up the UK, a #MillionMileMission! We want #LitterHeroes across the country to get outside and get active and help us on our quest to clean up a million miles of UK streets, coastline, parks, footpaths and neighbourhoods.

This mission is the focus of the [2021 Great British Spring Clean](#) campaign, which has launched today in collaboration with The Daily Mail.

You can join us by making a simple [pledge](#) and letting us know how many minutes you'll clean up for during the campaign (**28 May – 13 June 2021**). We'll convert those minutes to miles with the hope that, come summer, we can all enjoy a cleaner, greener, litter-free environment.

You can pledge as an [individual](#), or as a [group](#), ensuring you follow the latest Covid-19 guidance about group gatherings outdoors.

Whether you choose to run, walk, cycle or wheel, join our #MillionMileMission and help us care for the environment – and yourself



Supports the Eco-Schools litter topic

#EcoTeachMeet Leicester

Wednesday 5 May 2021



Nether Hall School

Keyham Lane West, Leicester, LE5 1RT

Wednesday 5 May 2021

4.00 - 5.30pm

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

All school staff welcome!

To register to attend or present please complete the following eForm:

[MayEcoTeachMeet2021](#)

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

It is our intention to host this event in person however we will monitor the Covid-19 situation and switch to a virtual session if necessary



@EcoSchoolsLCC



EnvEducationLeicester



schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots

My Local Trail

The logo for Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots, featuring a stylized globe with a tree growing from it, and the text "Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots" in a blue, sans-serif font.

This activity is all about exploring your local area to find the best spots to see the wildlife living around you and planning a walk that takes you past all the best spots. Even in the most built up areas there are still spots of green with all sorts of creatures living there, so let's get planning our local area trail!

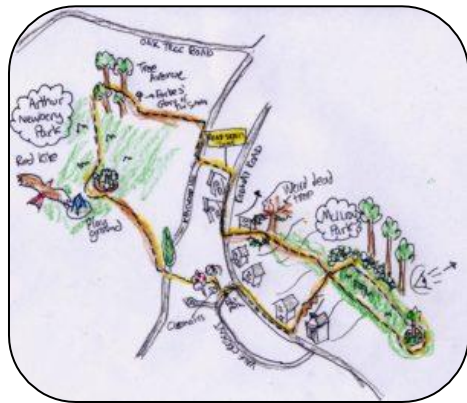
In this activity you and your students will:

- Use maps and short trips to investigate local nature spots.
- Plan a walk and draw your own map.
- Write a walking guide including the things that might be seen along the way.
- Optional: Add to your local area map

Objectives:

To explore your local nature areas, spot and identify wildlife, while getting out to enjoy a walk.

You can download the PDF worksheet here: [my-local-trail.pdf](#)



Supports the Eco-Schools biodiversity topic

No Mow May

Join legions of gardeners and say “no” to the mow this May to help our bees, butterflies, wildlife and us!

Plantlife's #NoMowMay campaign doesn't ask you to do much. In fact, it asks you to not do anything at all...

Just lock up your lawnmower on May 1st and let the wildflowers in your lawn bloom, providing a feast of nectar for our hungry pollinators.

No Mow May links in directly with Plantlife's citizen science project [Every Flower Counts](#) - the largest-ever survey of the humble lawn – which has already revealed a huge diversity of wildflowers growing on Britain's lawns, and has shown that simple **changes in mowing can result in enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators.**

So, let your lawn grow wild throughout May, and at the end of the month, on the Bank Holiday Weekend, join in with the nationwide “Every Flower Counts” survey to discover how many bees the UK’s lawns can feed. You can register for the count using Plantlife’s simple online [form](#). Participants will receive their very own “nectar score” (which will tell you how many bees your lawn can feed) and help us learn more about the health of the nation’s wildflowers.

And, if you want to rewild all summer, you can also try #LetItBloomJune and #KneeHighJuly later in the year!



Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics

Beat the Streets is coming to Leicester!



Beat the Street is a fun, free walking and cycling game which gets staff, pupils and their families out and about in the local area, having fun and keeping healthy.

The Leicester game returns to the whole of the city **on 26 May and runs until 7 July 2021**. Played outdoors in household groups, as individuals, and in class bubbles, Beat the Street is the perfect way to exercise safely during the pandemic. There will be prizes for winning schools and teams, as well as plenty of lucky spot prizes, which could be won by any registered player taking part in the game.

Your school will be provided with all the materials you will need to take part in the game. Watch out for more information over the coming weeks!

To find out more visit beatthestreet.me/Leicester

Green Influencers



Leicestershire
& Rutland
Wildlife Trust

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (LRWT) is delighted to become a host organisation for the Green Influencers Scheme. This scheme engages with young people (Green Influencers) across England who are between the ages of 10-14 years old, and promotes youth-led environmental social action. The scheme was set up by The Ernest Cook Trust (a national educational charity) and is match funded with the #iwill Fund, which is supported by The National Lottery Community Fund and Department of Culture, Media & Sport.

The mission of the scheme is to help young people create deep, lasting and meaningful connections with the natural environment. This project, led by LRWT Green Mentor, Hannah Keys, will enable Green Influencers to lead the way on youth social action projects within their communities in Leicester, and the surrounding areas. This could involve campaigning, fundraising and volunteering, and will enable young people to make a positive difference, whilst also developing their skills, confidence and knowledge. Over the next two years (until January 2023) LRWT aims to establish a minimum of 12 groups of Green Influencers.

If you know of a group of young people who would like to get involved, then we would love to hear from you! For more information about the scheme, or to register an interest, please contact Hannah Keys (Green Mentor): hkeys@lrwt.org.uk. Further information can also be found at ernestcooktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/green-influencers-scheme/



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