

# Eco Newsletter 2025/26

It has been a really fun and busy year for our Eco Council and our Eco Clubs. We got started as soon as our Eco Reps were voted for at our first meeting. We looked over what we achieved last year and read the messages that the Eco Reps of 24/25 left for the new Council. These included things that they enjoyed, things they wished they could have done and things they wanted the new Reps to continue with. Many included their desire to help wildlife of all types, this year's Eco Reps agreed and we began our plans.

At the first meeting the Chair (Freddie), Vice Chair (Maisie) and Secretary (Liv) were voted in.



A few weeks later the Eco Council led their first collective worship and received their badges.

We were joined by Tim, a representative from Ceres Power who in connection with Better Planet Education. They launched a competition called **Sparking Sustainability**, that we then shared with the school.

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## The Big Battery Hunt

We have continued to encourage people to bring in used batteries for the Big Battery Hunt, this was a huge success with lots being brought in. This is great due to their difficulty to dispose of, they should not be placed in household waste and need to be collected separately. Year 5 learnt all about this when they visited the Recycling Centre in November. Please continue to bring your used batteries into school for us to dispose of.

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## Bio – Diversity

Like last year, as a school we have been very keen on maintaining the current biodiversity and improving upon it. We have continued to plant bulbs and wildflower seeds each year, this of course makes the ground look pretty but also helps the bees. We have maintained things on site to help the bees, such as our bug hotels and bee watering bowls. A Beekeeper came to visit year 2 and 3 and brought some of their bees to help the children understand what bees do, and why it is so important to look after them.



## Bognor Regis in Bloom

Our vegetable and fruit plot is still going strong, producing a good crop of strawberries, raspberries, rhubarb, potatoes, carrots, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, broccoli, beans and peas. We also have our herb bed which is flourishing. We also have several fruit trees on the grounds, we have apples, pears and plums and blackberry bushes too! We use the produce to make healthy food and to sell at our school fayres. Last year we were the category winners of the 'Bognor Regis in Bloom - Best Vegetable Plot in a School'. The Judges visited back in June 2025, and we were invited to the awards ceremony in October. We were thrilled to collect the trophy and proud of our school Eco Teams for all the hard work that goes into making these things possible.



*"I love planting seeds because I love seeing how things grow" Maisie*

We will be visited this month by the 'Bognor in Bloom' judges to judge our vegetable patch in the 'Schools' category, and our tomatoes in the 'School Growing Competition'. We are hopeful, but will not find out how we did in the competition until September.

*"I liked planting the seeds because it was fun to get our hands dirty" Olivia*



We often use the vegetables from our plot to make vegetable soup. For their stoneage topic, Year 3 harvested the vegetables, washed, peeled, chopped and cooked them to make the soup they then enjoyed around the campfire.

*"The soup was so yummy" George*

## Beans Project

Last year we took part in an experiment with Southampton University called The Soton **Beans Project**, this involved planting 6 different varieties, including Lentil and Chickpea. We then had to measure and record their progress as they grew. The aim was to find out which varieties grew best in different areas of the UK. We had to take a scientific approach when measuring and recording the PH of the soil. The Eco Council and the Eco club worked together on this project. This continued over the summer and will continue into the new academic year. We needed to send nodes from the growing roots back to the university for testing, to see how the plant was coping with the local environment.



Each class watched a video on how waste is polluting the environment in different parts of the world, i.e. Year 2 Arctic/Antarctic, Year 4 Jungle etc.

A Home Learning challenge was then set to the whole school in assembly, to either make an Eco hero from rubbish or recycling, or to draw a picture. They then were tasked to assign it a superhero name and Superpowers.



## Sussex Underwater

**Sussex Underwater** visited us this year and each class participated in learning about marine life, a large Mural was then created in the school corridor.



The children took part in an Environment Day Assembly in June.



## Park Run

This year we became a Parkrun school, all the children learnt about what parkrun is, where and when it is held locally and how it may help to keep you fit and healthy. As well as give a boost to the children's self-esteem, confidence and mental health.

junior parkrun

## Walk to School Week



Walk to School Week in May saw many more children travelling to and from school in a more sustainable manner, either by walking, cycling or scooting. Our aim is to improve the number of families choosing to travel sustainably and to help remove barriers where possible, in order for this to happen. This year the children received a badge for each of the 5 days they travelled sustainably and at the end of the week a certificate, if they had collected all 5 badges. During the week we also held a sponsored run around our daily mile track and raised over £900 for Stone Pillow. The bronze ambassadors also led fitness circuits for all classes.

Volker Highways visited us with their mascot Kerby during Walk to School week and Led a Collective Worship about Road safety.



For sustainable travel to be safe, children need the skills and confidence to ride a bike independently. So, this year we introduced Bikeability for year 5, teaching them how to ride safely on the playground, and preparing them for the next level in year 6 where they venture out on the roads with the instructors.

## Travel and Sustainability Plan

We have been working hard on our Travel plan and have become accredited by **Modeshift** with a 2 Star or “Good” certificate for our sustainable and active travel. This not only covers safe travel to and from school, but also many other aspects including keeping fit and healthy, making sure we are doing all we can to keep the roads and crossing points safe for children and families. This helps children feel comfortable and safe to travel actively by giving them the skills they need with schemes such as Bikeability. Part of the accreditation is involving the local community and families of the children attending school. We did this by providing travel surveys and including information in the newsletter reminding parents to please not park on the yellow zig zags at the front of the school. We also reminded parents to please use the pedestrian path to enter the grounds safely, rather than walk through the carpark.



The children had several ideas about how we can encourage more safe and sustainable travel, such as

*“Lowering the speed limit on the roads close to school” “Putting up school signs” “Making the paths wider”  
“Roads would be safer for everyone if the potholes were fixed” “Getting a new Lollypop Person”*

We have produced our Sustainability Action Plan which all schools must now follow. This shows all the actions we already take to be as environmentally friendly as possible and actions we would want to include to help secure a sustainable future for us and our planet.

As part of our eco work this year we carried out a carbon footprint calculation for the school, covering a multitude of areas from water consumption and energy use, to food waste and recycling. This also included the travel by children and staff to school and travel to and from school trips, including purchasing and composting of garden waste. Part of the figure is made up from the size and energy efficiency of our buildings, which comes from our DEC report (this is a bit like the rating on your washing machine or fridge at home but on a larger scale), and all the new LED automatic lighting we had installed in 2024 has really improved our score. Our overall score was 97 which is good but there is always room for improvement, so we will be repeating the carbon footprint calculator to see what differences we can make with our continued eco work.



## Competitions

In Autumn 2025 we took part in two competitions where the children submitted drawings, paintings, stories or poems all with an eco-theme. One was run by Ceres Power with Better Planet Schools to write a poem or short story, or to create a picture of how you would like the future environment to look. The other was run by Volker Highways to design a new road safety mascot.



The winner of the Sparking Sustainability competition was Freddie, Year 4, for his lovely and amusing story about a bin and how to deal with batteries.



As well as receiving certificates from Better Planet Schools for our modules on Air Pollution, Transport and Food we also won a prize for our module on Travel and Transport. Everyone was very excited when it arrived, there were lots of things to help the nature on our grounds. It included a Hedgehog house with food and bedding, a Ladybird house and a Solitary beehive.

In December we were visited by West Sussex Wastebusters and a film crew. They had chosen our school to take part in a promotional film for a new campaign to recycle electronic waste and electricals, called the **Hidden Treasure Hunt**. We were chosen due to the work we have put in with Wastebusters and our Eco work in general over the last few years. The filming day was fun and the children took part in a themed collective worship, a lesson on recycling electricals and held an Eco council meeting.



*"I liked it when we had the Wastebusters filming day, it felt like i was in a movie" Charlie*

*"I enjoy watching out for Wildlife" Lyla*

We have carried out several litter picks on the school grounds, and taken part in the RSPB birdwatch. We also took part in the RSPB Wild Challenge which involved completing several tasks to help wildlife and to learn about wildlife. Some of these were things done in class as part of the curriculum and some were done by the Eco Council or Eco Club.

*"Its good to pick up litter, to help the wildlife" Olivia*

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### After School Eco Club

Our Eco Craft Club had great fun making a variety of things from natural and recycled resources. We made poppies, spider webs, a piece of bee art from screwed up paper, Christmas decorations and birdfeeders.



## Eco Stalls

We have been fundraising for our schools Eco projects.



At our Christmas fair the Eco reps ran a stall selling handmade decorations and gifts. At Easter we ran a stall selling plants. And at our summer fair, the Eco Reps will be running a stall selling plants and handmade items.

Early Years held an after school sale to raise money for the RSPB and they sold cakes, cards and birdfeeders. They raised over £39.

We also took part in The Wildlife Trust "30 Days Wild" programme in June. This involved doing outdoor activities, spending time in nature, helping nature, litter picking, planting seeds, exploring, drawing, water play, making bird feeders, reading, having lessons outdoors, trips to the beach, gardens, and farms all throughout the month of June.



## Awards

We achieved a number of awards and certificates this year.



Last year we worked on becoming a recognised “Hedgehog Friendly Campus”, this involved taking part in lots of activities to do with Hedgehogs and caring for nature. We were awarded a Gold Certificate. This is valid for 3 years so we will continue the work over the next few years and will go through the accreditation process again in 2028.



We received a Hog Friendly Litter Pick Certificate, for picking up litter to help the hedgehog habitats.



We have been working on our School Travel Plan and gained a Modeshift Stars “Good” or 2 Star Accreditation.

During our evening at the Bognor in Bloom Awards Ceremony, Mrs Osman and Mrs Evans attended with a child who played an active role not only in the vegetable plot competition but also in all aspects of our eco work across the school.



We received Bronze, Silver, Gold and Ambassador Wastebuster Planet Protector Certificates for completing a number of challenges including: biodiversity, travel, battery collections, toy collections, litter picking, clothing/uniform, recycling and food waste reduction.

We are working with Better Planet Schools, towards various topic awards, which has ran for the whole of 2025 and will continue into 2026, with Key Stage 2. We work on 3 modules throughout an academic year. So far, we have completed Plastic Pollution, Air Pollution, Nature and Biodiversity, Travel, Food, Farming and we will be moving onto Endangered Species in the new academic year.



The RSPB Birdwatch counted as one of the items needed for a Gold Wild Challenge Certificate and a Schools for Nature Certificate. Others included making bug hotels, planting wildlife friendly plants, plant and mini beast scavenger hunts, tree measuring, cloud watching, weathervanes, fundraising, making birdfeeders, carrying out a habitats and grounds survey and pond dipping. Some of these were carried out in class as part of the curriculum and others were completed by the Eco Council and Eco Clubs.

We have also been working hard on our Eco Schools Green Flag application. For the last couple of years we achieved a Distinction, so we were hoping to match that again this year, which we did. The green flag application covers many areas including Biodiversity, Travel, Water, Marine, School Grounds, Energy, Waste and Litter. This year we focused on School Grounds, Travel and Transport and Healthy Living.



Leaf Awards are an add on to Eco Schools and are bitesized activities aimed at Early Years and Key Stage 1. We completed 4 of the 5 activities, including Art, Writing, Growing Food and Building a Habitat.

Completing the Wild Challenge also entitled us to a certificate for being a School for Nature, signed by David Attenborough.

We were awarded a certificate for taking part in the 30 days Wild challenge from The Wildlife Trust.



We have just begun a journey with the RHS and their School Gardening award scheme and have just been awarded a Level 1 certificate.

We have had an amazing year, both the Eco Council and Eco Clubs have worked incredibly hard. As a whole school, we have achieved so much. As a community of parents and carers, charities and organisations have all worked together to make the world a better place. We have **Hope** for a sustainable future, and we are looking forward to continuing our work next year and seeing what more we can achieve.

***"I am so proud of everyone who has worked so hard this year to help us achieve all that we have worked towards. A special well done to the Eco Council and to the Eco clubs for the extra they put in across the year, we could not have done it without you"***

***Mrs Evans***