

Excerpt from Eco Schools - Email report dated 21.07.2023:

Congratulations on passing your Eco-Schools Green Flag!



Congratulations!!!

We are very pleased to tell you that you and your Eco-Committee at Stebon Primary School have been successful in meeting the requirements for the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award.

We reviewed your application and noted the following:

It's very impressive that you have formed such a large Eco-Committee. It shows that young people in your school are aware of environmental issues and committed to being active and creating positive change. How lovely that all but one of the previous year's Eco-Committee decided they'd like to partake again, this shows how much they value the experience of being on the Eco-Committee, and their passion for improving their school and local community, whilst combatting climate change. The quote provided by an Eco-Committee member summarises this attitude perfectly!

Allowing young people to keep a record of meetings means they can really take ownership of the programme, which is exactly what the Eco-Schools programme aims to achieve. The minutes example uploaded was brilliant too!

We love that the Environmental Review was divided amongst classes and older members of the Eco-Committee – this is a great hybrid approach that involves the whole school, whilst also delegating additional responsibility to older committee members, thus increasing their confidence, brilliant!

It's also brilliant that through completing it, you were able to take pride in what is already happening in school, this is important as it will help these actions become an embedded and appreciated part of school life. Voting on the topics for your Action Plan based on interest, impact, and your Environmental Review results is another great way of ensuring young people take ownership over your Eco-Schools work. It's clear that whilst developing your plan consideration was given to how you expand the reach of your Eco-Schools work to your whole school and local community – we love how many actions are targeted at parents as well as pupils.

The achievements from your Action Plan are fantastic – allowing young people to organise swaps in school is a great way to normalise pre-loved goods and reduce waste from your school community, especially when you consider the average t-shirt is responsible for around 7kg of CO₂ during manufacturing. Litter-picking allows young people to take ownership of their local area, and become active citizens in their community, it was great to read that this also led to rich discussion amongst your pupils and hopefully future behaviour change! We hope you do get the chance to buy your own litter-picking gear next year, perhaps you could place your Eco-Committee in charge of securing funding as one of their Action Plan projects? Finally, we loved your Biodiversity project £1000 raised is an amazing achievement! Sponsoring animals is again a great way to get young people thinking about how our everyday behaviours can impact wildlife in different parts of the world!

Your Curriculum Links are interesting and innovative, your Biodiversity one will help young people take more interest in their local environment, your Marine one will help them understand the impacts of climate change at a national level, and your Global Citizenship one puts climate change in a more global context. It's great to read that you have used environmental issues to enrich learning in your school – this is exactly what the Eco-Schools Team hopes is achieved by participating schools.

Your Eco-Board is a great celebration of your achievements, we adore the placard on it showcasing your, 'Less Pollution!' Eco-Code. We now think every Eco-Board should have a placard on it!

Clear thought has been given to other ways you can inform your school community about your work, we would have loved to see one of the videos you created! You have also used experts from your local community to benefit your Eco-Schools work, it was very clever to get in touch with your local council to loan litter-picking equipment, and working with local park officers is a great way to ensure the success of your Walk to School Week. The parental quote provided is testament to all the adults in your school involved with your Eco-Schools work. You have created passionate young environmentalists, who are excited about protecting our planet, and empowered to make a difference and ultimately that is the number one goal the Eco-Schools programme hopes to achieve, we're not surprised this engagement has been a highlight of your journey.

We love how careful consideration was given to involving your whole school in choosing an Eco-Code that represents them. Giving young people ownership over this step, will make your Eco-Code even more powerful, and as mentioned earlier we adore the fact that it is displayed on a placard!

Reading your application has been a fantastic way to end our team's working week, throughout your application you have demonstrated a wonderful ability to engage, enthuse, and empower young people and extend the reach of your Eco-Schools work beyond your school boundaries. It is a pleasure and privilege to congratulate you on achieving your Eco-Schools Green Flag!

As always THANK YOU very much for your hard work, we are so proud of all our schools and the collective achievements they have made to protect our planet for future generations.

We look forward to working with Stebon Primary School again next academic year to help you expand on your eco-actions and successes of this year.

Have a great summer break,

The Eco-Schools Team

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