

SCHOOL ECO NEWS

VOL. 3

DECEMBER 2020

NEWSFLASH

LET'S GO
ZERO
2030

Schools working together to be zero carbon

We are the first school in Portsmouth to sign up to the Let's Go Zero 2030 Campaign



Green Flag Award Progress



Global Citizenship



Eco Warriors After School Club



School Tree Update



Green Flag Award Progress — Energy Report



The Eco Warriors have continued with the environmental review process of Meon Junior School, looking at Energy within the school. Mr Fox, TSAT's Regional Facilities Manager for Portsmouth answered our questions detailing the energy that our school uses. We were pleased to find out that we produce more than a third of our electricity from our own solar panels and that the rest comes from renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro and biogas. We looked at how the school minimizes energy waste by using light sensors. Our review found that there is a lot more that we could do to conserve energy in school. Our Energy Review Score is 1.

To find out more about the Green Flag Award go to www.eco-schools.org.uk

Global Citizenship



December's Green Flag Review looked at Global Citizenship. We discussed the wider world, what it means to be a world citizen and how we can help to make the world more equal and more sustainable. As a group we discussed our own different languages, faiths and family heritage and learnt about our families and friends that live in different countries. Between us all we have connections to every continent on the planet. We also discussed some of the issues people in other countries face including environmental displacement, food shortages and the availability of clean water. We looked at Fairtrade and spoke about how the things that we buy have an affect on communities in other countries. We also looked at issues that affect our local community and the small acts that we can achieve personally that help the bigger picture. We spoke about food poverty, homelessness and foodbanks.

Community



St Margaret's Community Church in Highland Road, Southsea, operate a food bank for anyone in need. They are open if you would like to collect food on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10 and 11am. You do not need a referral to use this service. If you would like to donate to the food bank they need cereal, tinned and packet soups, pasta and pasta sauces, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, crisps, biscuits, UHT milk and long life apple and orange juice. Donation can be dropped off Mon, Wed or Fridays between 8 and 11am.

The Robert's Centre based in Crasswell Street, Portsmouth is another very useful organization. It's a unique child focused charity offering support to families facing homelessness and relationship breakdown. They are always happy for donations and support and are easily accessible for those in need. Go to www.robertscentre.org.uk for details.

Tree News



Our trees are losing their leaves as the weather gets colder and the days shorter. They have had plenty of rain lately and the winds are helping to strengthen them. The fallen leaves and the dying weeds around them will rot down and provide nutrients for the trees when they begin to grow again in the spring. Did you know? Trees and plants use a survival strategy in the winter, they take on less water to prevent the moisture within them from freezing in cold temperatures which is why they sometime appear dead. Some species even fill their cells with a sugar solution which acts as anti-freeze.



SCHOOL ECO NEWS



GOOD NEWS!!

We have bottles for life for sale in the school office 50p each. Free lids are available in case of breakages or if your old bottle needs a new lease of life.

Please bring a reusable water bottle to school with you everyday. Like our trees we need plenty of water for our bodies and brains to thrive.



Gardening Activities - Have a look at this website for lots of lovely nature inspired activities that you and can do over the holidays. Plant bulbs for colour in January and February and make Christmas decorations and outside garlands that will feed the birds.

www.schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/resources

Bug Hotels and Bird Restaurant Reviews

Our Eco inspectors, Evie and Edward, found our bird feeder's up and full of fat balls and seeds. It was a chilly morning when we went to check on them and we're expecting lots of visitors soon. Keep a look out. What types of bird have you seen?



Our new log pile and bug house are providing luxury stays for woodlice and snails. The big spider that came with the bug house is much happier in its natural habitat than under Miss Brown's desk! Thanks Edward!!



5th December is World Soil Day

Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity



WORLD SOIL DAY and its

campaign "Keep soil alive, Protect soil biodiversity" aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the growing challenges in soil management, fighting soil biodiversity loss, increasing soil awareness and encouraging governments, organizations, communities and individuals around the world to commit to proactively improving soil health. For more information go to

<http://www.fao.org/world-soil-day/en/>



Eco Warriors Club dates for the New Year.

Thursday 7th January
Thursday 4th February
Thursday 4th March

3.15 - 4.15pm



Schools working together to be zero carbon

Mrs Paine has signed up our school to the Let's Go Zero 2030 Campaign. We have committed to join with other schools pledging towards a more sustainable future. Together we will show the government that we want more support to become zero carbon through policy change and investment. We are empowering each other and taking positive action in the fight against climate change. Together we are hope in these uncertain times.

www.letszero.org

Staff Award



This month we acknowledge the enthusiasm and willingness of our Head Teacher Sara Paine. Mrs Paine has raised the Let's Go Zero 2030 Campaign with our school's trust with the hope that TSAT as a whole will rise to the challenge. In these testing times it can be tempting to put aside environmental action but Miss Paine's foresight has recognised the importance of sustainability in planning for the future.

Well done Miss Faye who puts food outside her office window for the birds and feeds them on the playground. This is especially important at this time of year when there isn't as much food around for them. Miss Faye has seen wagtails, crows, pigeons and sea gulls.

We love to hear about the activities of our families that help the environment. Our next Eco Review will be on Healthy Living. Please share your stories of your healthy habits. Do you grow vegetables? Do you have any healthy recipes? How do you like to exercise?

Send your stories and pictures for the attention of Miss Brown to office@meonjuniorschool.org.uk

