

SCHOOL ECO NEWS

VOL. 5

FEBRUARY 2021

LET'S GO
ZERO
2030
Schools working together to be zero carbon



Spring is around the corner and hopefully we will be starting to spend a bit more time outside, maybe using our exercise time in parks and on the beach. You may notice lots of litter in these natural areas especially on our beaches. The wild winter seas wash up lots of debris that has journeyed across the oceans, rubbish which comes from us humans either being taken by the wind, dumped into the sea by industry or left behind as litter. Sadly, sea birds, fish and large sea creatures swallow some of this rubbish mistaking it for food. Plastic, litter, discarded fishing lines and nets are deadly to sea creatures as they can become trapped and entangled in them.

It is vitally important that during these difficult times we keep to our Environmental Goals and don't allow these issues to be pushed aside. The environment needs us more than ever to push for change and hold those with power accountable as we move forward into a sustainable future.

Green Flag Award



Marine



Eco Warriors Club



Plastic Free Schools



Green Flag Award Progress — Healthy Living Report



The Eco Warriors have continued with the environmental review process of Meon Junior School albeit remotely. This time looking at Healthy Living within our school. We also used the opportunity to discuss the healthy habits of our families and any changes that we've made over the last year in a bid to become healthier. Thank you Eco Warriors for continuing your missions at home. Our Healthy Living Review Score is a respectable 4.

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



Marine

February's Green Flag Review is Marine. We asked - Do children at Meon Junior School learn about marine life and the problems that the oceans face? This month we can tie our review into our Plastic Free School's Award mission and highlight the national campaign to stop water companies from dumping untreated sewage into our rivers and seas. We also look into which single use plastics we can eliminate from school and ask our hot dinner providers about the origins of the fish they supply.



We have committed to join with other schools pledging towards a more sustainable future. We are one of over a hundred trailblazing schools that have signed up to this new campaign. Children are very passionate about saving the planet and have great ideas for the how the world should be. Let's all help them with this fight for their future. Find out more at www.letsgozero.org and follow https://twitter.com/LetsGo_Zero for all the latest news.

Plastic Free Schools Award



For some time now we have been trying to cut out single use plastic in school. We have made quite a few swaps from plastic milk bottles and cartons to glass bottles and reusable beakers to refillable ice cube trays as a replacement for ice cube bags to disposable cups to real cups at our events and napkins instead of plastic sandwich bags in our tuck shop (currently not operating). Last year our Eco Warriors formed a plastic free action group with the aim of ridding school of unnecessary plastic and gaining a plastic free schools award. Please help us by always using a refillable water bottle and re-thinking the contents of packed lunches and snacks. Thank you.



Really Wild Quiz, 13th February @ 4pm WWF are hosting a family quiz with questions suitable for all audiences. It's free to take part but do make a donation if you are able to.

[Really Wild Quiz | WWF \(enthuse.com\)](http://ReallyWildQuiz|WWF(enthuse.com)) Click the link to register.

SCHOOL ECO NEWS



Reusable Water Bottles



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 as just like our trees we need plenty of water for our bodies and brains to thrive.

Staff Award

This month we acknowledge Mr Richards, our site manager, Mrs Kingsbury Year 5 and Miss Anatoye Team 4A. Mr Richards has been repurposing old items in school that he found in storage rather than buying new and Mrs Kingsbury loves her new food waste bin. Her whole family put their food scraps into it, greatly reducing their rubbish that goes to the city incinerator. The food waste collections are taken for anaerobic digestion which creates fuel and fertilizer. Miss Ayantoye has swapped laundry washing liquid at home for Eco Eggs. These aerate the water cleaning clothes without the need for harsh chemicals as well as saving money. They can be especially good for people with sensitive skin and of course eliminate chemicals going into our water. Search eco eggs or eco balls online for more info.



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Climate Change Art Competition

WWF have teamed up with the Cabinet Office to gather the artistic visions of the future from young people aged 16 and under around the UK. Creative Earth is an art competition run by the UN COP26 Climate Change Conference in collaboration with the WWF and selected entries will go on display to World Leaders at COP26 in November 2021.

Follow the link below for competition details and rules. The competition deadline is 28th February 2021. Good Luck!

[Creative Earth Competition - Together For Our Planet \(ukcop26.org\)](https://www.ukcop26.org)

Please continue to share your Eco stories with us. It's really encouraging to hear what you're doing. If you have any photo's of you in action please send these in and we will try to include them in our newsletter. (Please be aware that this is posted on our website and social media). Please send pictures and stories for the attention of Miss Brown to office@meonjuniorschool.org.uk

Here's February's round up of Eco Events. Use these dates to try new ideas or learn about a new environment. Look into the meanings behind these events and raise your awareness of the world around you.

2 Feb Is **World Wetlands Day** raising global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet. Wetlands are land areas that are saturated or flooded with water either permanently or seasonally. Inland wetlands include marshes, ponds, lakes, fens, rivers, floodplains, and swamps. Coastal wetlands include saltwater marshes, estuaries, mangroves, lagoons and even coral reefs. Fish ponds, rice paddies, and salt pans are human-made wetlands.

14 Feb **International Book Giving Day** The aim? To get books to as many children as possible. Share the love of books!

#bookgivingday Most children in developing countries do not own books. In the United Kingdom, one-third of children do not own books and in the United States, two-thirds of children living in poverty do not own books.

17 Feb **National Random Acts of Kindness Day** Be kind to someone just for the sake of it. See if you can spread some kindness!

22 Feb **Fairtrade Fortnight** begins. Choose Fairtrade where you can and find out what it means for producers.



Eco Warriors Club

Eco Warriors Club Dates during school closure. The Eco Warriors parent's will receive an email with the club goals, activities and links attached each month. These resources are available to all to see on our school website under Our School and then Eco News on the right hand side of the screen. [Eco News · Meon Junior School](#)

Miss Knight headed to the park with her granddaughter to feed the squirrels. As you can see they are very tame and love nuts, seeds, fruit, fungi, grains, vegetables, roots, bulbs and bark.

