

SCHOOL ECO NEWS

VOL. 8

APRIL 2021

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



GREAT NEWS! Moorings Way School are setting up their own Eco Warriors Club. We are really pleased that they have embraced positive action and look forward to seeing the work they do. Well done Mrs Stirling for taking on this role and we look forward to working with you. We are also linking up with Plymouth High School for Girls who have their own Earth Alliance group. Plymouth High School are new to our trust. They have plans for an Eco Conference with Eco Representatives from each school attending. It's great that they are so passionate about taking care of our planet. Portsmouth City Council have recently gained Plastic Free Community Status which is very positive and some Portsmouth schools are trialling School Streets over the coming months. We will be keeping a close eye on this initiative and hope that the warmer weather encourages more of you to walk, ride and scoot to school. Keep an eye out for **Sustrans Big Pedal 2021** coming in April.

Green Flag Award Progress



School Review



Eco Warriors Club Litter



Plastic Free Schools Award



Green Flag School Review The Eco Warriors continued with their remote environmental review process of Meon Junior School. This month they looked at Transport - how we get to school, the roads around the school, air pollution and the quality of the air around in the city and around our school. Research found that we have storage for bikes and scooters although not undercover, children are trained on using bikes safely, the roads outside of school have some safety features but there are too many cars and our school doesn't have a school travel plan. Views were mixed on whether or not school encourages sustainable travel but our children are aware of the global impact of air pollution. They spoke about the Clean Air Zone which is being imposed by the government on the west side of Portsmouth due to the illegal pollution levels in that area of our city. They checked our Air Quality on the AQI site and found the results to be improved due to less traffic on the roads during lockdown. Unfortunately this rate is rising as traffic increases again across the city. Meon Junior School's Transport Review Score is a rather low 3.



April's Green Flag School Review is Litter and School Grounds. Our Eco Warriors are looking at how much litter is on our school grounds and asking where does it come from? How can we tackle this problem? Is the litter recycled? Do children get to use the outdoor space for lessons throughout the day and could the space be used for more than PE and breaktimes? Could this space be improved? Can we plant vegetables and have more plants? Can we have practical lessons in the garden areas? Can we have an accessible nature area?



Plastic Free Schools Award Our quest to cut out single use plastic in school continues and during March we challenged Chartwells our school meal provider on their use of disposable plastics with the outcome that real plates are coming back to Meon Junior School! We are very proud of our parent's for their Easter Egg donations as most were plastic free. Well done everyone, a great effort! 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 considering the plastic content of packed lunches and snacks. Portsmouth has just been awarded Plastic Free Community Status. We hope this means that schools will get more support and advice from the council to help strengthen our drive and reduce the plastic being used in all sectors across the city. We look forward to seeing their plans.



Eco Warrior Club Dates April's Eco Club was emailed out again as the Club was due during the Easter Holidays. We are pushing on to get our school review done and an action plan created. We will then be able to apply for our Bronze Award. [Eco News · Meon Junior School](#) We're really looking forward to May when our Eco Warrior Club will be back in school.

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. Just like our trees we need plenty of fresh water for our bodies and brains to thrive.

April in the garden. Hold off from tidying your garden until temperatures regularly reach 10° C or above or pile up your pruning's in a heap and leave as a nature hideaway for garden insects looking for somewhere to hide. Some adult insects hibernate during cold weather and find shelter in leaf litter, holes in trees and under logs and rocks. Bees, butterflies, ladybirds, moths and spiders all need places to survive the cold weather and need our help. If they are disturbed too early or their win-



School Trees

As the weather slowly warms up the buds on some of our trees are starting to open up into green leaves. We are eagerly watching the other tiny trees for signs of life but are encouraged to see that despite their difficult start quite a few of the saplings have survived their first year at Meon Junior School.

April 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.

3rd April International Walk To Work Day - Walking can help to clear the mind, get your heart pumping and raise your fitness levels. With the clocks changing and the mornings getting lighter, there's no better time to take part in an event like this, you never know it could lead to a new-found enthusiasm for walking and become a daily or weekly occurrence.

5-11th April Community Garden Week - celebrates the amazing community and school gardens across the UK. Community and school gardens come in all sorts of shapes, sizes and styles and bring people together using the power of nature to inspire, heal and make people happy.

22nd April Earth Day - Earth Day is an annual event celebrated around the world to show support for environmental protection. First celebrated in 1970, it now includes events coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network in more than 193 countries.

Eco Warrior Club Dates

April's Club details will again be via email sent directly to the Eco Warriors. Details can also be viewed on our school website [Eco News · Meon Junior School](#)

Thursday May 6th will be our first in person After School Eco Warrior Club of 2021. We're really looking forward to getting back together and finishing our school review as we continue working towards our Bronze Eco Schools Green Flag Award. Club times will continue to be 3.15-4.15pm for current members in the spare Year 6 classroom.

Further club dates for this academic year are **Thursdays 10th June** and **8th July**. If you would like to join the Eco Warriors please write to Miss Brown in the school office with a brief description of your Eco interests and ideas. There will be new places available in September 2021.

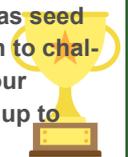
Lizzie Strikes Again!



Lizzie, Matilda, Mabel, Antonia and Iris jumped straight back into action collecting crisp packets from packed lunches to be sent to Terracycle for recycling. Check out [The Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme | TerraCycle UK · TerraCycle](#) to find collection points. Once collected, crisp packets are separated by plastic type, cleaned, and turned into plastic pellets to make new recycled products. Well done girls!

Staff Award

Miss Allen has some great ideas for our school garden and Mrs Paine has plans to create..... Our Eco Warriors, pupils and staff are quick to pick up on waste and unnecessary use of plastics. Last month, Miss Allen and Mrs Moggridge noticed that Chartwells had started using plastic disposable containers to serve their meals to our children. They then swapped to polystyrene containers! Mrs Moggridge quickly sent off some emails to put this right and we will be returning to reusable plates again after the Easter holidays. Miss Allen is reusing the plastic containers as seed trays. Well done both of you for being super vigilant. It just goes to show that when you take positive action to challenge a situation you can make a difference. It's really encouraging seeing everyone's mindset change as our school community becomes more aware of sustainability and how we can all make small changes that add up to big differences.



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