

SCHOOL ECO NEWS

VOL. 9

MAY 2021

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



Welcome to May's edition of Meon Junior Schools Eco News. With spring finally bursting through there is lots to see in our gardens, parks, hedgerows and skies. Take the time on a local walk to look for the signs of new life. What can you see? Are there insects hatching, birds nesting or trees and plants budding and flowering? Can you spot the beautiful cherry blossom trees in Milton Park. Spring is the time for action. Ask yourself if there are small actions that you can do to help nature? Have a look at our bug hotel building guide, try a car free day, set up a bird feeder or collect litter in your local area. There are lots of small positive actions that we can all take to help the environment. Make a list of small swaps that you could make. Starting small is less daunting, achievable and more likely to become a lifelong habit. There is so much we can do individually that collectively builds big change. Good luck and don't forget to let us know what you are doing.

Green Flag Award Progress



School Review Waste & Water



Eco Warriors Club



Plastic Free Schools Award



Green Flag School Review The Eco Warriors continued with their remote environmental review process over the Easter holiday. They looked at Litter and School Grounds - they found that we have some litter in our playground which comes from our packed lunches and snacks. The children think that the big companies should do more to reduce the plastic they use. They would also like to do regular litter picks. They are worried about the litter blowing away and hurting wildlife and sea creatures. Meon Junior School's Litter Review Score is 3. School Grounds - We would like to work outside of the classroom more often and spend more time in nature growing plants and gardening. We would like an accessible nature area. Our Review Score is 3.

www.eco-schools.org.uk



May's Green Flag School Review is Waste and Water. Does each class have a recycling bin? Do we send food waste for composting? Do we recycle school equipment? Do we have hand dryers instead of paper towels? Are our taps self stopping? Do we use waste water to water plants? Does everyone in school use a reusable water bottle? Do we learn about water issues in other countries?

This is the last stage of our school review, next we will gather all of our scores and create an action plan for the school.



Plastic Free Schools Award Our quest to cut out single use plastic in school continues and again we will challenge Chartwells. Unfortunately they are still putting the packed lunches into plastic bags and plastic pots! The children are keen to keep challenging Chartwells (see Yemi's letter on the next page). 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.



Eco Warrior Club Dates Hurray!! May's Eco Club will be in school 3.15-4.15pm on May 6th. Our current Eco Warriors will meet in the usual classroom. it'll be great to see you all again. We are pushing on to get our school review finished and an action plan created. We will then be able to apply for our Bronze Award. [Eco News · Meon Junior 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.



Yemi wrote to Chartwells when she found that the school lunch ice cream contains Palm Oil.

Chartwells quickly responded to let us know that the Palm Oil they use is 'sustainable'.

Yemi is keen that the companies we use care for endangered species as much as she does. Well done Yemi.



[5 problems with 'sustainable' palm oil | Greenpeace UK](#)

Eco Warrior Club Dates

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. 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 **1st 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.



May 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.

2nd May National Dawn Chorus Day - on a dry, calm morning find a quiet spot an hour before sunrise to hear the birds in their full glory.

2-8th May Hedgehog Week - check out this website for lots of tips on making your garden hedgehog friendly and how you can help these endangered mammals [Hedgehog Awareness Week 2nd – 8th May, 2021 - The British Hedgehog Preservation Society \(britishhedgehogs.org.uk\)](#)

May is National Walking Month take the walking pledge at [Take our pledge | Living Streets](#) for a chance to win £200 or £50 of outdoor clothing



Build a Bug Hotel Did you know that the average garden has more than 2,000 different species of insect? Build a bug hotel to help them, it can be as little or as big as you like. Here are some materials you could use, and the insects they support:

- **Dead wood.** Dead wood is an increasingly rare habitat and is essential for the larvae of wood-boring beetles. It also supports many fungi, which help to break down the woody material. Crevices under the bark hold centipedes and woodlice.
- **Hollow stems.** Hollow stems, such as old bamboo canes, or holes drilled into blocks of wood, make good nesting sites for solitary bees.
- **Stones and tiles.** Amphibians need a frost-free place to spend the winter. Provide stones and tiles in the centre of your habitat to give amphibians the cool, damp conditions they need.
- **Dry Leaves.** Dry leaves offer homes for a variety of invertebrates by mimicking the litter on the forest floor.
- **Loose bark.** Beetles, centipedes, spiders and woodlice all lurk beneath decaying wood

Tasheen brought his plants into school to show Mrs Paine. His mum has been teaching him at home how to grow his own food. He has grown tomato plants and a pepper plant from seed. With care he'll have some a very tasty salad in the summer. Well done Tahseen!



Staff Award

Miss Allen has done it again! She has highlighted the plastic used in Chartwells packed lunches. Well done! The challenge is on for next months award. Let's shine the spotlight on our schools good efforts.



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