

ECO CHAMPIONS NEWSLETTER

July 2025

What we have been working on

We've had a very exciting and busy time in our eco team this year! Here's what we've been up to recently:

Visit from Cathy Wilson – Alton Natural History Society

In the Spring term, we were very lucky to welcome Cathy Wilson from the Alton Natural History Society. Our eco champions gave her a tour of our spiritual garden, and she gave us some brilliant ideas to help wildlife thrive in our school grounds.

Cathy suggested we create more natural spaces using flowers, trees, grassy areas, and logs or rocks. She also recommended we add bird boxes and bug hotels to help animals find food and shelter. These small changes can make a big difference for nature!

Cathy kindly donated £100 to support our project. We plan to buy new plants from her recommended list and plant them with the children in the new school year.



Supporting Biodiversity

Earlier this year, Alice (one of our eco champions) won a bird box and kindly donated it to the school. It now hangs in the large tree next to our spiritual garden.

After Cathy told us about the national decline in the hedgehog population, we reached out to the Men's Shed in Alton to see if they would be willing to make us a hedgehog house. They kindly agreed and built one that has also been designed to keep cats out. They are also in the process of making us a bat box!



Each year group picked a herb and the eco champions helped to plant them. Lots of children across the whole school have been great with watering it but unfortunately it has not sustained the position in the sun very well so we will look at a shadier spot for this moving forward!

The children have also been enjoying watering the plants and topping up the bird bath, which has been great fun watching the birds arrive for a drink.

Our next project is to give the bug hotel a makeover!

Outdoor Class Collective Worship

This term, classes have been holding their collective worships outdoors in the spiritual garden. As part of our tradition, every child has planted a sunflower, and we're already enjoying watching them grow

🌻 Some of the children have also been:

- Sharing thoughts on how we can care for the planet
- Writing prayers about what the sunflowers symbolise – linked to hope and new life.



SUEZ Recycling Visit

Did you know? From 1st April 2025, it became law for all schools and businesses to separate their waste—this means sorting food, recycling, and general rubbish into different bins.

To help us learn more, the SUEZ recycling company visited our school and led an exciting whole school assembly. They explained what recycling is, how it works, and why it's so important.

♻️ Did you know?

- Recycling one tin can saves enough energy to power a TV for 3 hours!
- Every plastic bottle recycled can be turned into clothes, bags, or even furniture.
- The UK throws away millions of tons of food each year—most of it could be composted!

Here is an idea you might like to try at home:

Reuse

Recycled toilet roll bird feeder



STEP 1:

Cover the toilet roll in sunflower butter

STEP 2:

Roll the toilet roll tube in the bird seed

STEP 3:

Tie string through the tube

STEP 4:

Hang outside on a tree branch and watch the birds gather and enjoy!



'Bin It Brigade' – Litter Picking

After our assembly, we launched the 'Bin It Brigade'—a way for families to borrow a litter picking kit and help tidy up our local area. A few families have already signed up and started to take part! If you would like to get involved, we will send out another booking form in the new academic year.

In July, our KS2 Eco Champions and Global Ambassadors took part in the Anstey Park community litter pick with ACAN. The ACAN group carry out this litter pick on the first Thursday of every month. The group collected 10kg of litter—the third month in a row where less rubbish has been found! Let's hope this continues.

On their walk back to school, the pupils filled two more bin bags with litter—amazing work!

Julie, one of the volunteers, told us about how they collect tin cans separately and stamp them down to crush them. This is sent to John Sage, from the Harvest church, who organises the sorting of all the metal that is donated. The metal is then sold and recycled – and the money raised goes to programmes in Uganda such as building school classrooms. There is a collection point at Alton Maltings, based behind Sainsburys.



Eco Code

As part of our Year 6 'legacy' theme, Hawthorn Class worked together to create a brand-new Eco Code for our school. Using our school values—Love, Compassion, and Respect—they wrote a special poem to share what we stand for and our hopes for the future:

St Lawrence Eco-Code

Love our Earth, both near and far,
Compassion shines in all we are.
Respect each tree, each bird, each bee,
Our garden grows in harmony.
Pick up litter, keep it clean,
Protect the spaces calm and green.
Bugs and blossoms, big and small,
We care for nature, one and all.
Together we can make it right—
St Lawrence shines with eco-light!

Looking Ahead

A huge thank you to all our Eco Champions for your amazing work this year!

In September, we'll be opening applications for new Eco Champions—so if you're passionate about making a difference, we look forward to hearing from you!

Here's what some of our Eco Champions' parents have to say:

"My child is so proud of her work as an Eco champion, it has given her opportunities to be involved in child led initiatives and take part in school projects, most importantly it is a fun way to learn about, and be part of such an important topic."

"As a family, we love nature and are passionate about protecting the planet, so it was great to hear that the school are actively encouraging children to realise the importance of this and that our daughter Alice was chosen to be an Eco champion."

"Being an Eco Champion has been amazing for our son. Giving him this responsibility within the school has opened up inspiring new learning experiences for him while simultaneously building his confidence."

If you'd like to stay eco-active over the summer holidays, here are some fun and simple activities you might enjoy:

-  Grow something – Try planting herbs, sunflowers, or vegetables in your garden, balcony, or even a windowsill.
-  Build a bug hotel – Use natural materials like twigs, leaves, and pinecones to create a mini home for insects.
-  Create a wildlife-friendly space – Leave out water for birds or build a hedgehog highway through garden fences.
-  Go on a nature walk – Use a tick list to spot birds, trees, flowers, or insects in your local park or while out on a walk.

 Do a mini litter pick – Grab some gloves and a bag and help tidy up a small area near your home (always with an adult!).

 Write or draw about nature – Create a poem, story, or picture showing how you care for the Earth.

Have a lovely, restful, and eco-friendly summer! We look forward to hearing all about your adventures in September.