ECO CHAMPIONS IN ACTION

Building on last year's achievement

Following on from a successful last academic year, where we achieved the Green Flag Award, pupils began this year by writing some very thoughtful letters to Mrs Brown to apply for the Eco Champion role. It was a difficult decision, but we are pleased to announce that the following children were selected:
Otis, Isabelle, Herbie, Ophelia, Toby and Amaiya.

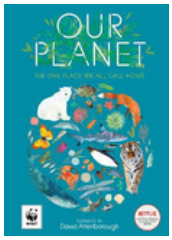
The children met early in the term and carried out an environmental review of the school. They decided that the three key areas to focus on this year would be waste, litter and energy.

During their review, the Eco Champions noticed that classroom bins were not always clearly or consistently labelled. As a result, recycling was sometimes being mixed with general waste. They designed and created new labels with clear pictures, which are now displayed in every classroom. These include labels for general waste, recycling, and reminders to switch off lights to save energy.

Carbon Reduction

Following this, the Eco Champions led a whole-school assembly to launch "Cut Your Carbon" Month in November. They set a range of challenges for pupils and families to try at home, helping everyone to understand the importance of reducing carbon emissions.
The challenges included:

- Making three plant-based evening meals across the month
- Completing three active journeys (such as walking or cycling)
- Meal planning for one week to reduce food waste
- Lowering washing machine temperatures to 30˚C for three washes
- Having a device-free day
- Dropping home heating by 1˚C for one week



Thank you to everyone who took part in completing the "Cut Your Carbon" challenges!

Alongside this, and continuing their focus on energy, the school took part in "Switch Off Fortnight." The Eco Champions led another assembly, educating pupils about the importance of saving electricity—not only to help the environment but also to reduce costs.

Did you know? Devices left on standby can still use a significant amount of energy—switching them off completely can make a real difference!

The Eco Champions also organised a class competition. They visited classrooms over the fortnight and gave each class a score out of 10 based on their energy-saving efforts (for example, turning off lights, interactive whiteboards, and taps when not in use). After calculating the scores, the winning class was Hawthorn—well done! They voted for an eco-friendly reward and chose David Attenborough's "Our Planet."

As a result of these initiatives, pupils across the school are now much more energy-conscious. It is fantastic to see children taking responsibility—for example, turning off lights when leaving a room, switching off equipment after use, and even suggesting turning down radiators instead of opening windows.

Planting the Seeds for Change

Our Cut Your Carbon results

Overall combined carbon savings = 424.98 $kgCO_2e$



We have also continued our partnership with the Eco Church at St Lawrence. In November, the Eco Champions were invited to plant bulbs in the churchyard, which we are now enjoying watching grow and develop.

In January, members of the Eco Team and Global Ambassadors attended the Young ACAN Eco Conference. This year's theme was food and waste. The pupils took part in a range of engaging workshops, including learning about seasonal fruit and vegetables. They are looking forward to sharing what they learned with the rest of the school in the summer term and setting new challenges to help reduce food waste.

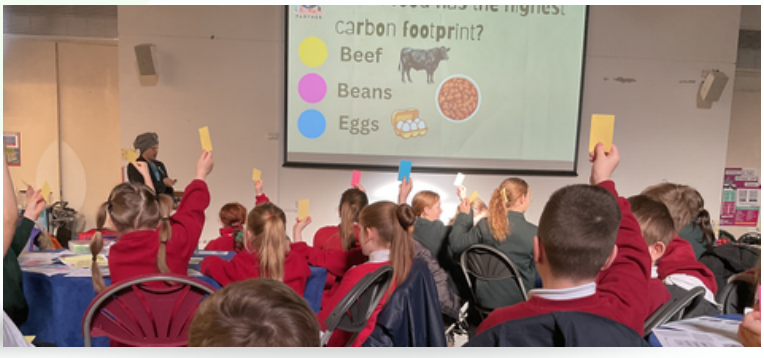
One of their favourite workshops was the 'smoothie bike', where children had the opportunity to make their own smoothies using energy generated by cycling. Scan the QR code to watch the conference film:

Linked to this, Scott from ACAN also visited our school to deliver an informative assembly for Year 3 and 4 pupils, all about food waste.









Exciting Playground Update!

We're thrilled to share that loose parts have been introduced onto the playground during lunchtimes, and the response has been nothing short of inspiring! The children have been embracing their creativity and imagination, transforming simple materials into a variety of inventions. From building cozy dens and seesaws to crafting imaginative cars, their innovative spirit is truly remarkable. This initiative not only fosters creativity but also encourages cooperative play and problem-solving skills. We're delighted to see the joy and enthusiasm it brings to our outdoor space. A big thank you to Mr Fox for his very generous donation of the loose parts, which has made this exciting play possible.





Litter Picking Equipment

Thank you to the families who have signed up to borrow our litter-picking equipment kits — this has been a great success! It is wonderful to see so many families helping to keep our community clean. If you would like to borrow a kit in the summer term, please register your interest by scanning the QR Code below. Kits are collected on a Thursday and should be returned by the following Friday.

Nurturing Nature at School

Last month, we also purchased new plants for the spiritual garden using a kind donation from Cathy Wilson of the Natural Society. Cathy recommended plants that will help to promote biodiversity. We have planted them and look forward to seeing them grow and thrive.

Mrs Trim also returned to support with the gardening in the Spiritual garden and worked with Sycamore Class to plant broad beans and fig plants. In addition, ALFI kindly donated seeds as part of their “Grow Something New” challenge, which we will be planting in the next upcoming weeks.

To mark Earth Day last week, the whole school took part in our annual planting sunflower seeds. We look forward to watching them grow, as they have always been popular within the local community.



Small Digital Changes, Big Planet Impact

When thinking about saving energy, have you considered your digital carbon footprint? Simple actions at home, such as unsubscribing from unwanted emails and regularly clearing out inboxes, can help reduce energy use. You might also consider switching to a more eco-friendly search engine, such as Ecosia, OceanHero or Ekoru, which support environmental projects like tree planting and ocean clean-ups. Small changes like these can make a big difference and are a great way to involve children in caring for the environment.