

Eco Assembly

Wednesday 9th December, 2020



Environmental review

The following questions were raised:

- Are the fish used in school dinners sustainably sourced?
- Are the cleaning products used in school environmentally friendly?
- Does our school have a travel plan?

Some of our eco-councillors have been investigating and this is what they found out...



Tom wrote a letter to Dolce, who provide our school meals, to find out about the fish. This is what they said.



"I am happy to confirm that all our fish fingers are from the MSC Marine Stewardship Council, who are an independent non-profit organization which sets a standard for sustainable fishing. A blue MSC ecolabel is on the package which means that the products can be tracked back through the supply chain to a fishery that has been certified against the MSC standard."

Elsie wrote a letter to IMS, the company that cleans our school, to find out about the cleaning products. Here is the information they sent.

Eco Friendly Range



Triple 8 DOSE



KEY BENEFITS:

- **Huge reduction in single use plastics** – reduced packaging, reduced waste.
- **Massively reduces carbon footprint** – 1L bottle equivalent to 100 trigger sprays
- **Accurate dosing made easy for cleaners to eliminate over dosing**
- **Significant 'in-use' cost benefit**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE:

Highly concentrated - reduces carbon footprint
Diluting chemicals at the point of use and sourcing water locally, which minimises transport costs and carbon emissions. The precise dosing measurements not only provide cost-in-use benefits but will also minimise chemical wastage. Re-using the same spray bottle will help to reduce waste packaging, compared with using ready-made chemicals.

No Animal Testing
Triple 8 Dose has not in the past, does not currently and will not in the future use animal testing on any of our products. Triple 8 Dose do not send product out for animal testing on behalf of our customers. Triple 8 Dose preferentially uses sources of raw materials where suppliers have similar ethical views to ourselves.

No CLP hazard symbols when in use
Designed to be very safe, both for the user and the environment. When these products are diluted 'Ready to Use' there are no CLP hazard symbols on the label.

AJ wrote to Mrs. Bull about the school travel plan and she has set us a challenge.

“We don't have an up to date Travel Plan at the moment but I would be very happy to provide the Eco Council with all of the information so they could write one for us. I would love to hear how the Eco Council think we could encourage more people to cycle, scoot and walk to school safely. I think this would really help reduce pollution and cars in the local area.”



Eco gems



Last year we started giving out ruby gems to children that were seen doing eco friendly acts of kindness around school. We would like to reinstate this idea and give eco-councillors the power, alongside adults in school, to give out ruby gems to children who are actively trying to look after the environment. Acts of eco-friendly kindness might include picking up litter, watering the plants, feeding the birds, looking after mini-beasts, etc. If an eco-councillor or adult spots you doing an eco-friendly act of kindness they will award you a ruby gem to add to your class pot. Who will be the first to earn one?

Action planning



Thank you to all of the eco-councillors for holding meetings in your classes to gather ideas for each of our five topics: energy, waste, water, school grounds and litter.

The next step is to write an action plan and to do this we need to focus on one idea for each topic. Miss Hargood and I have put all the ideas together.

School grounds



- Regular outdoor learning sessions (curriculum based) – perhaps we could have an outdoor shelter for this purpose?
- Regular non-curriculum sessions focussing on developing the school grounds for wildlife. Could include working on a wild garden (currently Year 1 and 2 gardens – to be used by whole school next year). Could involve planting and looking after flowers, plants, fruit and veg. Perhaps an area for each Year group? Could have a compost bin? Sessions could also include making animal homes and feeders.
- More planting in the rest of the school grounds, e.g. trees, hedges, plants – to encourage wildlife.
- Use leaves, sticks etc to make art.
- Work on the pond area to make it look nicer.
- More eco-friendly benches/tables for use at break and lunchtime. More buddy benches.

Litter

- Regular lunchtime litter picks/litter monitors.
- More bins outside.
- Encourage the use of reusable packaging for snacks.
- Work with Thatcham Litter Pickers to organise litter picks outside school. Each family could adopt a small area around Thatcham that they pick regularly?
- Litter posters/signs in playground.
- Take part in Keep Britain Tidy's Big Spring Clean.



Energy



- Take part in Switch Off Fortnight.
- Research - Does the school use a green energy supplier? Do we have a smart meter? Look into solar and wind power for school. Write a letter to Mrs Bull asking if we can think about these things for the new build.
- More reminders, e.g. more posters (maybe in corridors) to remind people to save energy.
- Non-Curriculum Day (like Water Warriors) where we learn about where our energy comes from, how to save it etc.

Water



- More push taps or automatic taps.
- Install water butts for watering plants.
- Use rain water for toilet flushing.
- Come up with top tips for how to save water, e.g. when filling a bottle to drink from, only fill to the level you need. Could share on Facebook/school blog etc.
- Tap monitors to make sure the taps are being turned off after use and people aren't wasting water.
- Fundraising for Water Aid.
- Signs for turning taps off.

Waste



- More recycling – plastic bottles, metal, food, printer cartridges.
- Compost heap/bins.
- Non-Curriculum Day (like Water Warriors) – learning about food waste, 5 Rs of Waste, how things are recycled etc.
- Try and get children/staff/parents to create less food packaging waste, like crisp and cake packets, by encouraging making more snacks from scratch. Could put a post on FB page where parents can share recipes and creations?
- Join up with other local schools and Thatcham Against Plastic to petition our supermarkets to get plastic container recycling bins (to recycle fruit punnets, yogurt pots etc). Our closest recycling points are Sainsburys in Tadley and Calcot.
- Teachers could print fewer worksheets.
- Make sure that paper recycling bins are the same colour/have the same recycling signs on in each classroom to make them easy to identify.
- Re-use materials for art, e.g. cereal boxes, paper tubes, egg cartons.
- Hand driers instead of paper towels in all bathrooms (we may be able to source quieter driers for children who don't like the sound).
- The school could buy more recycled/plastic free classroom equipment , e.g. exercise books, paper, sellotape.

Please take some time in your classes to vote for the ideas you would most like to work on. Each class needs to choose one idea for each topic. Please ask your teacher to email me your chosen ideas by Friday 18th December. Then Miss Hargood and I will look at the most popular ideas for each topic and let you know in the new year what our focus will be.

