

Learning for Sustainability Newsletter *(from the LfS Forum)*

Eco Schools District Eco Schools Meetings - Spring Term 2009

There will be five Eco Schools meetings this term across the County, with the focus being **water**. Come along and join us ~ it's a great opportunity to share ideas and best practice! **If you would like to attend, please let me know by emailing fwalters@worcestershires.gov.uk or by calling 01905 766809.** All meetings are open to all teachers. See you there!

Faye Walters, Asst ESD Officer

9 February 09	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Castlemorton Primary School, Castlemorton, Malvern WR13 6BG
10 February 09	3.45pm - 5.30pm	St. George's Catholic Primary School, Worcester WR1 3JY
12 February 09	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Stoke Prior First School, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B60 4ND
24 February 09	3.45pm - 5.30pm	King Charles 1 High School, <u>Upper Site, Comberton Road</u> , Kidderminster DY10 1XA
2 March 09	3.45pm - 5.30pm	Pebworth First School, Pebworth CV37 8XA

January 2009



Eco Schools



Congratulations to Franche Community Primary School ~ Food For Life Bronze Award winners!



On Monday 1 December, The Prince of Wales presented awards to schools in England with the best school food culture at the first ever Food for Life Partnership Awards Ceremony in London (administered by the Soil Association).

Vice-chair of Governors, Sue Collingridge and **cook, Victoria Forester** from the **Franche Primary School, Kidderminster**, went to the ceremony to receive a Bronze Award for all of the school's hard work over the last year in improving and developing their food culture.

Val Weddell-Hall, Headteacher at Franche Primary School, said: "This greatly benefits our children, who now have a lunch menu full of home-made, freshly prepared meals bursting with vitamins and nutrients. Our children are now far more aware of what a balanced diet is and the benefits to their health.

"They are also aware of where their food comes from, how it is grown and the environmental implications children throughout school have the opportunity to grow and harvest fruit and vegetables. This allows us to reduce the cost of school lunches by preparing everything freshly in school, which in turn encourages more children to have a school lunch."

If you would like to become involved with the Soil Association's Food for Life programme, please visit www.foodforlife.org.uk or contact Anna O'Sullivan, the West Midlands Food for Life coordinator, at ao'sullivan@soilassociation.org.

NEW & FREE! Eco Council Training in March 2009...

For up to 4 pupils from your Eco Council and your Eco Schools Coordinator

The day is specifically designed for Eco Council / Committee members to:

- **Develop knowledge and understanding of the Eco Schools scheme, the issues behind it and why it's important;**
- **Develop the skills needed to work together as a team;**
- **Have the opportunity to practice the skills they have learned and**
- **To have fun!**

Dates/Venues:

Wednesday 11th March ~ Droitwich Youth House (First & Primary Schools only)

Wednesday 18th March ~ Bishops Wood Centre (First & Primary Schools only)

Wednesday 25th March ~ Redditch YMCA (Middle & High Schools only)

Time: 9.45 to 2.30

Booking: FREE!

Please contact Faye Walters at fwalters@worcestershires.gov.uk or on 01905 766809 to book a place.

Please circulate	✓
ESD Coordinator	
Head teacher	
Eco Schools Coordinator	

GREEN FLAG SUCCESS!

Congratulations to the following school who has recently achieved a Green Flag for their Eco Schools work!



- Hibleton First School

John Rhymer
01299 250513
jrhymer@worcestershires.gov.uk

Rupert Brakspear
01905 766378
rbrakspear@worcestershires.gov.uk

Faye Walters
01905 766809
fwalters@worcestershires.gov.uk

Learning for Sustainability Team
Worcestershire County Council

Forthcoming events & training

Dates for your diary...

Improving your school grounds Part 2: Making the Changes

Ref: 2LT018/01

Tuesday 10th February 2009, 1pm to 4pm (repeated 5th May 2009, 1pm to 4pm) Cost £70

The purpose of this activity is To enable participants from schools which have a clear understanding and vision of how they want their grounds to be used, to identify practical solutions to their needs, implement changes and evaluate the effect of these changes.

How to design aspects of your school grounds, come up with innovative and exciting ideas, simply but effectively putting plans into action, understand of some of the health and safety issues relating to their plans for school grounds, obtain grants, advice and support, develop a personal action plan, create an improved vision plan or concept board of ideas to share with colleagues.

In most cases participants will have either attended "Starting to improve your school grounds Part1" or worked with experienced School Grounds Professionals to identify the schools needs and create a vision plan.

Tutors: John Rhymer and Stacy Dooley. For availability, contact the INSET Office on 01905 740125. To book, please submit INSET1 form to INSET office.

Going for Green! Working towards the Eco Schools Green Flag Award

Ref: 2LTW003/01

Wed 11th February 2009, 9am to 4pm

Cost £130

The day is specifically designed for all Eco Schools Coordinators who have reached Silver Award in the Eco Schools Award Scheme, and want to prepare for their Green Flag application and assessment. The day will be varied with sessions devoted to training input, outdoor learning, practical workshops, planning and preparation with other colleagues

The day will give teachers the chance to prioritise actions necessary to achieve Green Flag status and will dedicate some time to looking at, and getting started with the application form.

Tutor: Rupert Brakspear. For availability, contact the INSET Office on 01905 740125. To book, please submit INSET1 form to INSET office.

Starting to improve school grounds

Ref: LT021/02

Tuesday 17th March 2009, 1pm to 4pm (repeat of 21st October 2008 course) Cost £70

To prepare participants to lead their schools through the first stages of developing their grounds including how to get everyone on board, survey all elements of the school site, consult with the whole school community, establish the schools needs and to draw up a vision plan. Participants will also be invited to the county school grounds development group to discuss progress and share ideas. This group will meet termly.

Tutors: John Rhymer and Stacy Dooley

For availability, contact the INSET Office on 01905 740125. To book, please submit INSET1 form to INSET office.

Growing Food in Schools – an introduction

Ref: 2TWH003/01

Tuesday 24th March 2009, 1pm to 4pm

Cost £70

The purpose of this activity is to explore how children can grow their own food as a part of the curriculum or as an extended school activity. Participants will learn how to involve pupils in designing and creating a vegetable garden and how to integrate school composting with the garden activities. There will be practical sessions on creating a raised bed and planting suitable vegetable seeds and plants. Growing food in school is a wonderful and engaging way of raising awareness of the value of fresh healthy food and makes a significant contribution to Healthy Schools, Eco-Schools and the sustainable schools framework

Tutor: John Rhymer & Teresa Cave

For availability, contact the INSET Office on 01905 740125. To book, please submit INSET1 form to INSET office.

Eco Council Training

Cost: FREE!

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Wednesday 18th March, 9.45 to 2.30pm ~ Bishops Wood Centre (First & Primary only)

Wednesday 25th March, 9.45 to 2.30pm ~ Redditch YMCA (Middle & High only)

Please contact Faye Walters at fwalters@worcestershires.gov.uk or on 01905 766809 to book a place. For full details, please see front page.

Friends of Bishops Wood Programme

Sunday 8th February 2009, 2.00-4.00pm ~ Day of the Dinosaurs

Stories of dinosaurs, dragons and rocks that talk. Make your own casts of fossils and pictures of scenes when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

Sunday 29th March 2009, 11.00am – 3.00pm ~ Recycling and Composting Open Day

An array of displays, exhibits and hands on activities on the themes of recycling and composting. Meet the experts, become a worm in the giant compost bin and join in the race to recycle.

For further details phone 01299 250513 or visit www.bishopswoodcentre.org.uk

For most events the suggested donation is : £3 per adult and £1 per child. Friends of Bishops Wood and immediate family £2 per adult and children free.

Healthy Early Years (HEYS) and Quality Conference

Worcestershire Early Years and Childcare Service is holding a Healthy Early Years conference, aimed at early years and childcare settings who want to improve their knowledge of the six HEYS themes or find out more about undertaking the Promoting Health in Early Years programme. There will be lots of opportunities to share good practice and see first hand the work that settings who have achieved their award have undertaken, as well as take part in workshops around the six HEYS themes:

Healthy eating; Health related exercise; Mental and emotional wellbeing; Loss and change; Personal safety and child protection; Staff health & wellbeing.

There will be an awards ceremony at the end of the event for those who have already achieved their award.

The event will take place at Worcester Rugby Club on **Saturday March 28th 2009**.

Introduction to global school partnerships

'Introduction to global school partnerships' is a workshop for schools new to global school partnerships. It covers the principles, educational benefits, practicalities and viability of global school partnerships.

Tuesday 10 March ~ Birmingham ~ contact Jackie Zammit at TIDE~ 0121 2023290.

To find out more, please visit www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools-pd-workshops-intro.htm.

Four and twenty blackbirds?

Part of the world's biggest annual bird watching event the Big Garden Birdwatch, the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch is now in its seventh year. In 2008 over 45,000 UK schoolchildren took part. A free teachers' pack containing colour booklets, curriculum links, identification posters and counting charts is available to all schools. To get your pack, call the Big Schools' Birdwatch hotline on 0300 456 8340 or www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch/register.

Even if your school took part last year and has already received its pack, don't forget to register online to take advantage of new online resources and activities.

To find out more about the Birdwatch and related activities, as well as to learn about birds, visit www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch.



Fairtrade Fortnight ~ Go Bananas!

All printed promotional materials for Fairtrade Fortnight are available and can be ordered from www.fairtrade.org.uk/resources or by telephoning 020 7440 7676.

Make sure you're part of the big banana eating world record attempt ~ for more information, please visit www.fairtrade.org.uk/gobananas

From Litter to Glitter Winners!

Congratulations to **Stoke Prior First School** in Bromsgrove and **Burlish Park Primary School** in Stourport-on-Severn for winning the Yuletide competition 'From Litter to Glitter'.

The aim of the competition was to create baubles and globes out of recycled materials to encourage pupils to recycle their waste whenever they can.

We had some excellent entries from all over Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest. Rachel Kennett and Joanne Duffield, Waste Minimisation Officers from both local Councils send out a thank you to all the schools that took part. Many congratulations to Stoke Prior First School for winning £150 to spend on an environmental based project! and Burlish Park Primary School for winning a 'Cow' Recycling Bin, courtesy of Taylor.

We look forward to working with all in 2009! Happy New Year!

Rachel: r.kennett@bromsgrove.gov.uk and Joanne: joanne.duffield@wyreforest.gov.uk.

The Growing Schools Year Planner

Growing Schools has produced a colourful and informative calendar-style year planner for the classroom. It's available free, and schools can order a copy now (www.growingschools.org.uk/calendar).

The year planner is enlivened with inspirational photos, and packed with tips and advice to encourage outdoor learning through growing food in schools. Features include:

- month-by-month reminders for what to do in the garden
- suggested ways to use the growing experience for teaching and learning
- seasonal recipes using produce from the garden
- wildlife to look out for throughout the year
- a detailed plot planner recommending when to sow, plant, prune, protect and harvest over 40 fruit and vegetables.

Growing Schools Conference ~ The Growing Schools Programme is delighted to announce that it will be holding its second national conference "Get Your Hands Dirty" at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, on the **23rd March 2009**.
Source: *Growing Schools website*



Stoke Prior



Burlish Park





Currys Switched on Communities Grant Winners!

We have just entered the third and final year of the Currys Switched on Communities grant scheme. Over 270 grant applications have been received through the scheme so far, with successful schools in the first two years sharing over £200,000. November saw the first panel meeting of the final year. Twenty-four applications were received from nurseries, primary schools, secondary schools and colleges concentrating on the themes of energy or water. From the applications received in the first panel, 12 were successful and shared a total of nearly £25,000.

Successful Projects

Molescroft Primary Schools project, 'Water Saver', concentrated on saving water. The children identified the taps currently installed were very difficult to turn off properly and constantly dripped. They were granted just over £2,000 funding to purchase and fit 21 push on/off taps in a bid to reduce their water consumption. Westville House School concentrated on saving energy as they felt there was a huge amount of heat lost through the schools roof. £1010.74 was granted for insulation for their loft to help reduce this heat loss.

Shimma Integrated College provided the panel with a very interesting application. One of their school resources includes a mountain cottage used for environmental awareness days, field-work and within different areas of the curriculum ~ they were granted £2800 to purchase Thunderbox mobile compost toilets for the building. The toilets which are made from sustainable materials, produce compost not waste and will allow the cottage to demonstrate sustainability whilst saving water.

How to Apply

There is still the opportunity for bronze and silver Eco-Schools to apply for the Currys Switched on Communities Grant to help them progress through the Eco-Schools programme. The second panel closes on the 1st February 2009 and the last panel closes on 1st April 2009, with panel meeting taking place in mid February and mid April. Your school can apply for up to £5000 for projects based on the themes of energy and water that will create positive change and development within your school. For more information regarding the grant, including the full criteria and the application form please visit www.eco-schools.org.uk/grants. Alternatively, if you have any queries regarding the grant programme please contact one of the Eco-Schools team on 01942 612621.

Source: Eco Schools website

CALLING ALL YEAR 5 TEACHERS!

Win one of 100 FREE visits to your school by the npower Climate Cops

The Climate Cops Academy is an exciting and interactive workshop that has been designed to inspire Year 5 pupils to become more environmentally aware and make a real difference to their school and community. npower is offering 100 UK schools that teach Year 5 pupils the chance to win a visit to your school in 2009. Should your school be one of the lucky winners, npower will bring the Academy right to your school hall and with a little help from the Climate Cops mascots - Will, Skye and Oscar, your Year 5s will fly through their Academy training!

Using a combination of hands on activities, video presentations and team challenges your pupils will learn about a variety of climate change issues including energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable living, whilst developing their personal skills.

This is an excellent opportunity to get your school involved with a worthwhile, triple award winning project with proven success. The competition will be **launched on Friday 30 January** with an advertisement in TES, which features an interview with a headteacher whose school participated in a Climate Cops Academy event last year. To enter the competition and be in with a chance of winning one of 100 FREE Climate Cops Academy events for 2009, visit www.climatecops.com between Friday 30 January and Friday 13 February, complete the entry form and then email it to climatecops@npower.com. Terms & Conditions apply - please see www.climatecops.com. We look forward to receiving your entry! Good luck!

Liz Clutton, Education Investment Manager, npower

Look out for a feature in the TES on 30 January, with comments from David Smith, Headteacher from Great Witley Primary School, on npower's Climate Cops Academy!

West Mercia Supplies: CO2 emissions reduced by 81 tonnes

In autumn last year, 9 months after changing to a set day delivery service, West Mercia Supplies were able to report a reduction in CO2 emissions of 81 tonnes.

"Next day delivery is no longer necessary as customers are becoming more aware of their responsibility regarding sustainable procurement. Our research has shown that the carbon emissions of WMS vehicles were reduced by 44% in the first 6 months of the set day scheme (in comparison with the previous 6 months). This saving of 81 tonnes is equivalent to 45 flights from Gatwick to New York!"

Source: WMS Autumn newsletter

Procurement is an important factor to consider when making schools more sustainable ~ the 'Top Tips for Sustainable Purchasing in Schools' shows that procurement accounts for 42.1% of a school's carbon footprint. A copy of this leaflet can be downloaded from www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools ~ Support ~ Core materials.