

# ECO NEWSLETTER

October 2015

No 1

## Welcome to our first Eco Newsletter of 2015-2016

We also welcome our new parents and hope that the information and a quick re-cap of our activities below will help you learn what we do at our school and how you can help.

We have a strong ECO ethos at our school and aim to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle wherever possible. To reinforce this we have decided to use the symbol (as the background of this page) on everything that we produce. You will find a list of our activities at the end of this newsletter.

As part of our ECO work we also take great interest in our grounds. During 2011, for the first time, we entered Horley in Bloom and were awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place. In spring of 2012 we entered a new competition, Horley in Spring and were awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place. We have since entered Horley in Bloom in the summer of 2012, 2013 and 2014; Horley in spring again in 2013 and 2014. All competitions rewarded us with 2<sup>nd</sup> place. In the summer of 2013 we also entered another new competition ~ South and South East in Bloom's 'Blooming Schools' and were surprised and happy to receive their Silver Award. We entered again in the summer of 2014 and were awarded Silver Gilt. This past spring and summer, 2015, we received joint 1<sup>st</sup> for Horley in Spring, highly commended for Horley in Bloom and another Silver Gilt from South and South East in Bloom.

As the gardeners among you know it takes a great deal of work to keep up the gardens and even more to move them ahead. If you have any spare time, however little, that you would like to give to help in our gardens please contact Mrs Dodd in the office. All help is always welcome and we encourage parents, grandparents and helpers to come into our school grounds. We had some great help from parents working in our new Woodland Walk area which we really need to have completed by the coming summer providing a nice shady area with lots of natural plants. If you would like to help with this please let us know.

Our most successful enterprise this past year was the introduction of Flower Fairies which involved parents and children working together and planting as a surprise for everybody else - this helped to win us our joint first award from Horley. The planters all around the front of the school were absolutely beautiful - we hope to do this again this spring

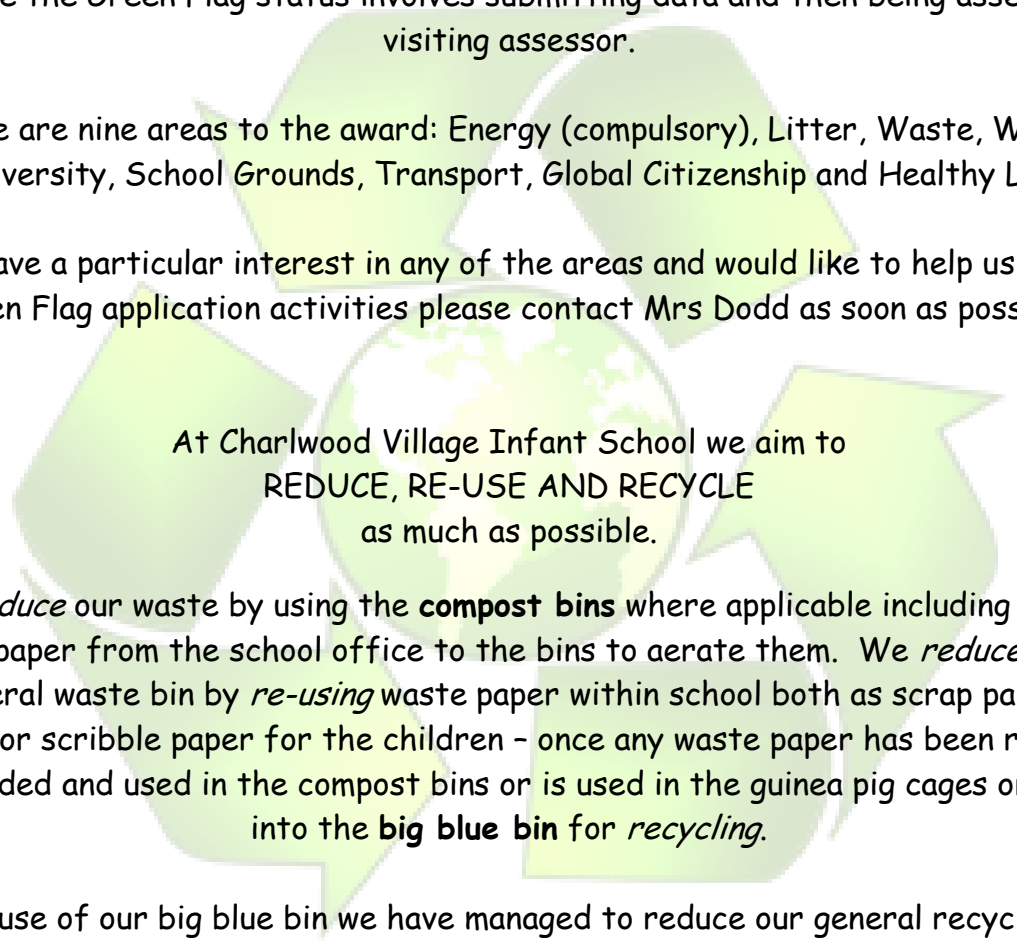
During 2013-2014 we achieved our ECO Schools Green Flag status.

Our Green Flag is now due for renewal March 2016! Part of the Green Flag requirement is that all members of the school community are aware of our ECO CODE ~ you will have seen this around the school. It is to be sung to the tune of 'twinkle, twinkle little star' ~ ask your child to tell you about it ☺

To achieve the Green Flag status involves submitting data and then being assessed by a visiting assessor.

There are nine areas to the award: Energy (compulsory), Litter, Waste, Water, Biodiversity, School Grounds, Transport, Global Citizenship and Healthy Living

If you have a particular interest in any of the areas and would like to help us with our Green Flag application activities please contact Mrs Dodd as soon as possible.



At Charlwood Village Infant School we aim to  
**REDUCE, RE-USE AND RECYCLE**  
as much as possible.

We *reduce* our waste by using the **compost bins** where applicable including adding shredded paper from the school office to the bins to aerate them. We *reduce* our waste to the general waste bin by *re-using* waste paper within school both as scrap paper for the staff and for scribble paper for the children - once any waste paper has been *re-used* it is then shredded and used in the compost bins or is used in the guinea pig cages or even goes into the **big blue bin** for *recycling*.

By making use of our big blue bin we have managed to reduce our general recycling bins to just ONE!

We also have a **recycled waste collection** for items that cannot go in the big blue bin such as envelopes, bottles and plastic drink containers etc. The milk cartons from staff use and from the children's milk are *recycled* into our recycled waste collection and the lids into our **Bottle Top Collection Bin**.

We also arrange collections once or twice a year for unwanted clothing, bedding, curtains etc. for distributing to developing countries via 'Phil the Bag' and more recently through our connection with Wastebusters. This not only gives re-use to unwanted clothes but prevents it going to landfill as items not suitable for redistribution are shredded for mattress filling and other uses.

Please see the list at the end of this newsletter for our Recycling activities.

## ECO ACTION TEAM

As some of you are aware we have regular meetings of our Eco Team. We consider the whole school community, parents, staff and children as part of our Eco Team. This means that everybody will receive copies of the minutes. We would like everybody to feel that they can attend as many meetings as they would like and to make this easier we will have them at different times. Meetings will be kept very short with just one or two items on the agenda as they will be led by the children. Please keep a watch on the notice boards and an eye on your email.

We have held our first meeting with the new Eco Reps to introduce them to how our meetings will run.

Our new Reps are:  
Aaron, Alfie, Callum, Chloe, Izzie and Sophie.

They will be pleased to welcome you to the first general meeting on Monday 16th November at 8.45 a.m.

If you have any suggestions for our Eco Team please email Mrs Dodd/Mrs Bowling at the school office. All ideas and suggestions are welcome.

If any of you are thinning your cottage garden and border plants or have plants that you no longer need we will be happy to give them a good and loving home.

### A reminder of what we do in our school

#### Recycling:

In the playground, at the beginning of the parking bays, you will find our 'recycling area'.

**Big Blue Bin** - please feed this with your paper waste, including newspapers, magazines, catalogues, brochures, telephone directories, cardboard and yellow pages. We are asked **not to include** plastics, glass, metals and envelopes.

**Milk Bottle Tops clear bin** - Please place in here clean Milk tops ONLY. Other lids result in a lot of time being wasted at school in sorting them out before we can arrange collection. Whilst we are very grateful for all top donations PLEASE TAKE EXTRA CARE TO ONLY PUT IN MILK BOTTLE TOPS. Please also avoid putting **bags** containing lids inside the bin itself. Taking care of this will be an item on our Eco Team helpers list.

**Composting** - We recycle all our fruit and veg waste from snack time into our compost bins around the school and into our wormery which is based in the environmental area garden. Our kitchen also makes use of our composting areas.

**Printer cartridges** - In the front lobby by the office you can drop your used printer cartridges into the bin. We are presently looking into a new recycling company but will continue to collect in the meantime.

### **Shoe Recycling**

Our latest addition is for your unwanted shoes. Sadly most shoes are thrown away and are left to rot in landfill sites. Placing your shoes in our bin will enable them to be sent to developing countries for people less fortunate than ourselves. Please let your friends, neighbours and family know that they can use our bin.

### **PLUS**

**Textiles** - Via our 'Phil' the Bag and Wastebusters collections. We are waiting to hear about a collection for early next term. If you have unwanted summer clothes or any other textiles please hold on to them and we will let you know as soon as possible when to bring them into school.

If you have other ideas or suggestions please let us know.

As we try to include the local community and help them where possible the above recycling bins at the front of the school are also accessible to local residents during school hours, when the gates are unlocked.

## **ENERGY 2015-2016**

Many of you know that every autumn term we take part in SwitchOff Fortnight when the children are encouraged to be as energy efficient as possible and look for lights, computers etc. that should be turned off when not in use or unnecessary and to try and do the same at home.

Last year November became ENERGY MONTH and we are continuing the theme this year. We will be doing the same as SwitchOff Fortnight but for longer and with higher impact.

We have recently been awarded our certificate for the Ashden Less CO2 programme. This is a three year campaign of measuring our energy use and finding ways of lowering it.

During ENERGY MONTH part of our Less CO2 work will be:

# HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015

We will be talking with the children and asking for their ideas on how they think we can save energy on this day.

Please keep watch for other energy and ECO activities that will take place in school.

If you are interested in our work on any of the areas above and would like to help please contact us.

