

# ECO NEWSLETTER

Number 3

Spring Term 2014 - February

We have a strong ECO ethos at our school and aim to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle wherever possible. You will find a list at the end of this newsletter of the activities at our school.



We will be taking part in the Waste Week campaign which runs during March 2014. Any week can be chosen so we will be working on our projects throughout March. The main focus during Waste Week is plastic so we will be making a scarecrow for our school garden made from plastic items. We need adult size wellies if anybody is about to throw some away. If we are lucky enough to receive more than one pair we will use the extras for planting.

Another area of waste that we try to cover is the recycling of textiles. Our 'Phil' the Bag collection in November raised £87.50. THANK YOU to all those that contributed. We will not be arranging another collection during the spring term but we would like to keep everybody aware that, rather than sending items to landfill, you are still able to send in your items during March. Just send items in, clearly marked 'Phil' the Bag, and we will store them. If enough bags accumulate we may then arrange a collection.

On our website you will find a link to the video that the children will be shown in the assembly that will launch the campaign.

Our Toy Sale will also take place during March - see further down the Newsletter.

As a follow up to our SwitchOff Fortnight campaign we revisited the topic in a Big Think Time assembly and all the children in Year 1 and Year 2 have now completed their leaves for our Eco Tree.

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 goes into the **big blue bin** for *recycling*.

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'. 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.



## STOP PRESS!

The Green Flag Assessor will be visiting us on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

### ADVANCE WARNING

During March, as part of our Waste Campaign, we will be holding a toy sale for the children along the lines of a bring and buy sale. We would like the children to bring in their unwanted toys and games which we will then sell on to the rest of the school. Any items are acceptable. Smaller items will sell for just pennies. We will have different tables for different prices - i.e. one table will have 10p items and another may have 50p items; bigger items will be available for parents to come and buy at the end of the day.

More information will be provided after the half term holidays.



## ECO ACTION TEAM

Our last meeting was held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014 when we discussed our activities so far and our plans for the next half term. Meetings are kept very short with just one or two items on the agenda and are led by the children. If you are unable to make our meetings but feel you have something to contribute please let us know.

Our next meeting will be after the half term holidays and we will let everybody know the date once it is decided.

## GARDENS

I'm sure you have all noticed that spring has finally sprung and daffodils are prettily decorating the local area.

Our gardens are very important to us and we now enter three separate competitions. We not only focus on flowers but also on growing vegetables and salads. As those of you keen gardeners know, the task of looking after a garden never ends - there is always something new to do.

Our 'new' this year is to move our Woodland Area. This is rather upsetting as it was just beginning to establish but as we had so many trees removed during the summer holidays last year the area is no longer dappled shade but full sun! We have designated an area behind the pond for our new Woodland Area but this will require a little work. If anybody has any time to spare and they would like to come and help remove a few weeds and some rubble we would be very grateful. If we could get the area cleared as soon as possible we will be able to dig up and transplant our woodland plants as soon as they start to appear. This will then leave us with a clear patch of garden that we will need to plant up.

Help is always much appreciated and if you have any time you would like to donate we will always find you something to do ☺

If you have no time but have an over-stocked garden you can help us in that way too. Please consider sending in any seedlings and divisions that you may be able to spare. Our Bee and Butterfly Garden is still a 'work in progress' and we are waiting to see what has survived from last year.

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

**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. 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 green bin.

**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 collections.

Finally, thank you for your time in reading what we do at our school.

We have achieved the Silver Award on the Eco Schools scale and have applied for our Green Flag status.

Part of the Green Flag requirement is that all members of the school community are aware of our ECO CODE. You will find 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 ☺

Green Flag status will require the help and commitment of the whole school community and we look forward to working with you on this worthwhile cause.