

# ECO NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2017 – 20<sup>th</sup> October

No 1

Autumn Term 2017

Welcome to our first ECO Newsletter of 2017-2018.

We can now announce our ECO WARRIORS:

Year 1 ~ Gabriel and Jade  
Year 2 ~ Bobby G and Ollie  
Year 3 ~ Carmela and Toby  
Year 4 ~ Callum and Izzie A

These pupils will be working to reinforce our eco ethos within the school and to let others know about our activities. They will help to lead assemblies and involve as many other pupils as possible.

This half term we held our first working party which was **stage one** of getting our gardens ready for gardening competitions next year. The planters at the front of the school were cleared and ready for spring flowering bulbs to be planted.

We held a Mufti Day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 which was **stage two** as every child was asked to contribute a bulb as the fee for wearing non-uniform that day. We had a fabulous response and we started planting with pupils straight away on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October. It will be interesting to see the planters when in flower, there is sure to be a surprise or two as the children got very carried away! ☺ We still have bulbs to be planted but the planters on the playground should be complete on our return after half term. If you would like to help plant some of the bulbs in remaining pots please let us know.

**Stage three** will take place after half term when we turn our attention to the back of the school and start to clear the existing gardens. As you may know we had the fence moved at the end of last term which opened up the garden that was inside the pond area. The pond is still secure but the garden has been made accessible to the pupils, allowing them to see the bug hotel. This garden was our Bee and Butterfly Garden but it will become a Sensory Garden once cleared. As our Cottage Garden is already planted with wildlife in mind all plants from the Bee and Butterfly garden will be moved to there. We also plan to plant some of our bulbs into the existing garden ready for the Spring Garden competition. On our return to school after half term we will let you know the date of the next working party in the hope that some of you may be able to help with this stage. This is, obviously, time sensitive as we would like this done before the winter weather sets in. As advance warning for your diaries we are currently looking at 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> November for the working party but this is to be confirmed.

PTO

**Stage 4** will be our biggest project and will require much more help. This will be to re-structure our Woodland Area and create a Woodland Walk. We aim to start this during the spring term and have it accessible to pupils during the summer term.

### **Autumn Term ~ Energy Focus**

During the second half of the autumn term our focus is on Energy which is one of the nine areas on Eco Schools and part of our Green Flag process.

We will be taking part in Switch Off Fortnight which officially runs from 20<sup>th</sup> November – 3<sup>rd</sup> December but our focus will be longer. Our ECO WARRIORS will read our electricity meter daily to compare usage to that on How Low Can You Go? Day on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017. During Eco Big Think Time on 15<sup>th</sup> November our pupils will be given pledge leaves for them to state how they intend to save energy. These are then put on our Eco Tree in the Link.

The class with the largest number of returned pledges will have our Baby Buster in their class room until the next eco challenge.

Looking towards the end of the term, our pupils will once again be making snowflake decorations for the Christmas tree – recycling in action. The pupils love it!

### **Spring Term ~ Waste Focus**

We will be holding our usual 'Phil' the Bag collection towards the end of the spring term. This collection raises much needed funds to be spent elsewhere on all things ECO. Please start collecting your unwanted clothes and if you can't store the bags bring them to school and we will store them until our collection. We will let you know the date nearer the time.

Don't forget we have a shoe collection box in the playground. This also raises money for our ECO fund.

ECO activities need to be self-sustaining so any help you can give with donation to clothes collections and the shoe box all help. The recent donation of bulbs will help us in our gardening activities as we won't have to purchase any for our spring displays.

Thank you for any help you may be able to offer, big or small.

With this Newsletter you will find our updated flyer which lists some of our plans and how people can help.

If possible could you pass the flyer on to neighbours or other friends and relatives that may like to help us.

Thank you