

The Eco Team - making our school greener

Welcome to the third newsletter from the Eco Team



Reduce, reuse, recycle

As part of going for our Silver award the Discovery Detectives theme for this term is directly linked to the Eco Schools project.

In assembly we introduced everyone to the idea that while recycling is better than the bin, it's better still to reuse and best of all is to reduce the amount of waste in the first place. The goal is to get everyone to make the small changes that can add up to make a big difference, both at school and at home.

For inspiration, we had a visit from some of Anglian Water's world-famous RiverCare sculptures. Made entirely from abandoned shopping trolleys, they represent how an area full of litter can be transformed into a habitat for wildlife.



Reuse at the Nearly New Sale

One really easy way that everyone can reuse things is to get down to the PTA's Nearly New Sale on 28th March. Buying and selling second-hand is far better than dumping the old and buying new. It also raises lots of money for the school and puts some in your pocket too, so everyone wins!

It's cool to Recycool

We've recently joined the 'Recycool' scheme which means we can earn cash for the school by collecting old mobile phones and printer cartridges. Look out for more information on this soon.

Gardening afternoon

The vegetable garden gained a shed at New Year and now it's time to get the plot ready for spring planting. Do please come along to the gardening session on Sunday 1st March, from 1.30 to 3.30 if you can help.

Watching water and energy

One of the first ideas that the Eco Team had when we started, was to have a person in each class who'd be responsible for checking that lights were turned off and that dripping taps were fixed. These Water and Energy Monitors will soon start. We hope that the roles will be regularly shared out so that everyone gets a go. Look out for who is wearing one of the special badges.



Contact us

If you have any ideas or comments, please drop a note into one of the 'Eco Ideas' boxes around the school, or share them with the class Eco Rep. Or anyone can send an e-mail to Lisa on ltaylor@anglianwater.co.uk, with 'Eco School' in the subject line. We'd love to hear from you ☺

Wildlife area

Anyone who has walked past the shrubby bit near Middles since half-term cannot fail to have noticed that it's had a bit of a hair cut!

During the holiday some of the Environmental Performance team from Anglian Water came in for a day. The team had two goals: to improve the woodland habitat for wildlife and to make it accessible for teaching. They hope to have achieved both aims. It'll be like being in a clearing inside a larger woodland.



The 'laying' of the edging shrubs to make a hedge looks brutal at first, but there will very soon be lots of new growth. The new hedge improves

ground habitat as well as helping to keep out litter. Some of the bushes in the centre of the area have been removed to open up an outdoor teaching space and bird feeding station. We also removed the huge rose bush that had fallen across the stepping stones, so reopening the access route.

There are more jobs still to do. There are a few more branches of blackthorn to trim back to open up the pathway, then we plan to reset the path edges using only the wood that we cut from within the area. We'll add some brush-wood screening to the inside of the fence to give more privacy, and plant some hazel and guelder-rose saplings.



The final touch will be to sow seeds along the open margin of the newly-laid hedge next to the concrete path. This will be a mixture of native hedgerow grasses and

flowers providing colour, interest and habitat for countless mini-beasts.

What's the Anglian Water link?

There are quite a few mentions of the region's water and sewerage company in this newsletter. Why? The Eco Team is being helped by Lisa Taylor, who is Anglian Water's Environmental Performance Scientist as well as being Mummy to Eleanor in year 3 and Christopher in Reception.

Anglian Water encourages all staff to volunteer for community activities, through their *Give Me Five* scheme. This gives up to 30 hours of work time per year in addition to the employee's own time. That's how Lisa and her colleagues can give their time and skills to helping the school.



Before (September) - tall shrubs overhanging the path and very open at the base.



After (February) - laid hedge gives ground cover for animals and more space for people.

By summer this will be covered with lush new growth and wildflowers.