

SUSSED NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 21st 2016

LATEST GREEN FLAG SCHOOL

Many congratulations to North Baddesley Junior for an outstanding fourth Green Flag. Like many successful schools, this is a school that 'does it anyway' but enjoys a Green Flag as a final endorsement. Lesley Murphy, eco co-ordinator (not sure if that's what she calls herself) welcomes the opportunity to visit you and to exchange ideas. Like Hounslow, a fourth Green flag means that the school is working in depth on all nine Eco-Schools 'doorways'.

Ideas worth sharing

- Fabulous scrap books document the year's activities. Lesley gave me a copy of 2015-2016. It is now enjoying a journey around our schools.
- The use of night vision cameras to track visiting mammals. Badgers and bats anyone? The school is now planning bat boxes and is working with the Hedgehog Preservation Society. And North Baddesley support WWF, 'Wearing it Wild' and raising money for polar bear trackers.
- A beautifully designed (second) noticeboard that explains recycling. Rightly or wrongly, Eco-Schools insist on Minutes, Environmental Reviews and Action Plans being posted on noticeboards. It never ceases to cause problems but there are creative solutions that satisfy this requirement AND mean that you can display interesting material.

- Travel is often a Cinderella topic. Not so here: talk to Lesley about her astonishingly pro-active JRSOs!

- Painted stones tell stories of animals and plants (old pebbles are painted over every year – impressive respect for natural resources)

- Brilliant repurposing of desks (right)

- Explanatory plaques in the herb garden and in different habitats

- Attractive pots are planted with bulbs for Christmas. Painted wooden spoons provide labels. Desks are creatively repurposed



- There is a pre-Christmas swap of unwanted items (A fabulous 'reduce Christmas rubbish' initiative (above) that is similar to 'Buy Nothing Christmas' below.
- Healthy and Fairtrade snacks are available in the staffroom for hungry moments. They raise funds for Sustainability.
- The school is also producing a school 'green Christmas card.
- Trails in the grounds and clay 'green men' on the trees add great interest.

FOOD

THE CRUNCH

Every school should have received resources for 'The Crunch' from the Wellcome Trust. There are good activities for all ages and a KS3 survey was launched with MicroBits earlier this month. I know Applemore took part and would welcome news. <https://thecrunch.wellcome.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges>

ENERGY BIKE

A reminder that we have an 'energy bike' that's always in demand during Fairtrade fortnight. It's used by community groups as well as schools. If you would like it, please book early. Thanks to Orchard and North Baddesley for doing exactly that.

WATER

Water Explorers

I keep pushing Water Explorers who I first met through Walhampton Prep when invited to a Water Explorer session – a direct result of the school's successful involvement with Roots and Shoots. Applemore College is the latest school to have seen the benefits of the programme.

Water Explorer encourages students aged 8-14 from 11 countries to take bold and powerful action to save water through 'Fun, interactive water saving Missions'.

<http://www.waterexplorer.ie/>

Whether you're interested for an Eco team or you're hoping to run a whole school project, Water Explorer can be adapted to fit learning objectives and the time available. All of the Challenges are fully resourced and the programme requires very little planning.

Water Explorer challenges can be used as a basis for a **CREST Bronze Award**. That may not mean much to you as a teacher but believe me, it means a great deal to children who receive them!

I also recommend OXFAM's water resources

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/water-for-all>

GROWING AND WILDLIFE

I've now delivered onions, garlic and beans to all schools. If I haven't, this is your last chance to say! Thanks for taking part in these challenges, and thanks for sharing your photos. Thanks to Sarah Fawkes for provisioning



GARDEN FOR BUGS

This is the time to be planning for bugs.

Buglife's [Garden wildlife friendly](#) website is worth looking at and their [farmland bee box](#), is beautiful but pricey. However, it's eminently replicable and would be a great CDT project for schools like Small School. If you're planting for pollinators, Buglife also stock a range of native approved [wildflower seeds](#)

WILDLIFE WATCH

Wildlife Watch have super 'spotting sheets'. Nuts, autumn trees and leaves, and fungi are especially relevant at the moment

TIM PEAKE

Almost all of you did 'Rocket Science' last summer and should have received this information. It affords little time for action

The RHS Campaign for School gardening are putting together a photobook of Rocket Science pictures sent in by schools which they will give to him as a gift.

If you would like to be included in the book, here is what to do:

- Send your best photos (no more than 3 per school/group please) to schoolgardening@rhs.org.uk with 'Tim Peake Book' as the subject
- Photos should include your 'space biologists' (pupils/students) and not just seed trays or plants
- All photos must be at least 1MB in size and no bigger than 5MB (You must have permission from parents)
- All photos must be received by **Sunday 23rd October** (so they can get it printed in time!)

BUY NOTHING FOR CHRISTMAS

You could make a pact with friends and family to opt out from the 'pressure' of gift-giving (freedom at last!). But perhaps offer a nice



gesture such as a stack of tickets that say '1 ticket for 1 tea and cake date'.

Or you could get crafty, making and baking, and create your own cards, wrapping paper or home-made gifts. This is a great way to get children involved, for example making [Christmas wrapping paper](#) or [Christmas Origami shapes](#).

RECYCLING

I am particularly proud of the way in which some of you consistently go beyond Hampshire's low expectations in terms of recycling. EVERYONE collects paper, card and bottles because Hampshire take these items, but I think it's right that sustainable schools push boundaries.

Ideas for anyone who isn't doing this include

YOGHURT AND SMOOTHIE POUCHES

- Often used in packed lunches by younger children.
- Contact Sarah Rix (Milford pre-School) or Sarah Fawkes (Nature Nursery, Brockenhurst and New Milton preschools)



PENS, FELT TIPS, MARKERS, BIROS

- Collected by Walhampton Prep, for Terracycle. Don't waste them! Contact Amy Marshall or David Hill

ALUMINIUM

- This is a valuable commodity. It's collected by Ringwood School to raise funds. Contact Elena Fernandez Lee.
- We also collect in Lymington to raise money for a community allotment. Contact me.
- It's essential that it is separated from steel (especially when dealing with cans). Get pupils to test with a magnet



COFFEE JAR LIDS

Yes, lids from ANY make of coffee are collected by Sarah Fawkes. This is another Terracycle 'Brigade'. Contact Sarah.

TETRAPAKS

Test Valley collect these, but NOT NFDC(!). I wash them out and collect. A friend who is in Test Valley then disposes of them appropriately. Do collect and I can take, but please wash them out and put them in clear sacks.

PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS

All types are needed by LUSH for their black plastic. I took several bags into LUSH Southampton last week because I was visiting Jamie's. Do collect but don't give to me please! I think there are some things schools can take responsibility for and there are LUSH stores in Poole, Southampton and Salisbury so you'll have staff members who can take.

The firm offers great support to schools and a visit with a workshop.



LAPTOPS, COMPUTERS, MICE, LEADS, OLD TELEPHONES – ANYTHING ELECTRONIC

These are recycled by Jamie's Computers in Southampton, an enterprise that couldn't do more. They refurbish and sell; they repair and replace, the break down and recycle and they support rehabilitation of offenders. WOW! The photos (below) show some of your offerings that I took last week. **Thank you**, and keep supporting



FAIRTRADE

If you're planning on eating any chocolate this Christmas you'll probably be stocking up on the Fairtrade variety. But another way you could take action is to [sign this Europe-wide](#)

[petition](#) asking supermarkets to improve the conditions and ethics within their own-brand chocolate supply chains. This is part of a project Think Global is involved in to [raise awareness about the ethics of supermarket supply chains](#).

Message from the Fairtrade Foundation today: National Trust properties will be serving 100% Fairtrade tea and coffee from today. Quite right. Good move!

ELEPHANTS

Remember that it's the Enormous Elephant Art Exhibition at Lyndhurst OCTOBER 29th and 30th. The evening event (ticket only) will be opened by Roots and Shoots (Tara Golshan, Dr Jane Goodall's PA); Small School Lyndhurst's choir will be performing and I will be there most of the weekend. Thank you for contributing to the 'herd' with your milk bottle creations. Special thanks to those who've gone the extra mile; Small School who marched for elephants and Breamore School with two fabulous sets of contributions.



Hope to see some of you there!

AIR POLLUTION



I announced Friends of the Earth's Clean Air campaign with great flourish in Spring. Only today did I receive my own kit. What a shambles! The request for air pollution monitoring kits was vastly over-subscribed and FoE has made a public apology. I had to re-register and by chance caught the email sent in the middle of a Wednesday morning informing thousands of people that more kits were available. I managed to get one but in 20 minutes all were gone. Dirty diesel is a big issue and it's worth campaigning on.

Keep persevering. That address again:

<https://www.foe.co.uk/page/clean-air-kit-register-your-interest>

This is how bad things are – of minority interest, I'm sure ...

Small power generators are bidding for 15 year contracts as part of the government's **Capacity Market reforms**. These providers, many of them new, will be paid to be on standby in case of a power shortfall. At a time when diesel emissions are under scrutiny, many of these providers are not even clean gas but diesel. Diesel engines produce greenhouse gases of around 1010gCO₂/kWh, compared with around 378gCO₂/kWh for larger gas turbines, so CM reforms, far from encouraging the right investment, are incentivising filthy diesel. We have at least two such generators in the New Forest and I have voiced concerns but fear that the groups concerned will be awarded one of these lucrative state contracts.

WILD PLAY DAY AT BOLDREWOOD Thursday 27 October

I've been asked to publicise this event, organised by the New Forest National Park Authority.

- Wild play day at [Bolderwood Arboretum](#) Wear some old clothes and wellies.
- **Time:** 10am - 3pm (drop in anytime)
- http://routes.newforestnpa.gov.uk/routes/wild-play-day-in-the-woods-27-october/?mc_cid=37249cc91b&mc_eid=5aa0004927