

# ECO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## AUTUMN 2025

We are coming to the end of a very busy term, and this Eco School newsletter is something we plan to issue frequently to update you on what we've been up to as a setting, and ways you can support us at home.

We have a **Climate Action Plan** covering the following areas:

- Waste
- Energy
- Transport
- Food
- Water
- Outdoor & Nature
- Teaching & Learning

To create this plan, we found a Climate Action Plan checklist online and carried out our own audit to see how we measure up – the good news is we are already doing tons of great stuff, **BUT there is always room for improvement.**

We completely smashed **Outdoor and Nature!** Children in Early Years are intrinsically drawn to animals and the outdoors, and we place a huge emphasis on this in the learning opportunities we provide at Little School, not only through Forest School, but in our outside space, and walks around the village, trips to the river, bird-watching, bug-hunting, creating homes for hedgehogs, and watching the birds on our birdbox camera. We are thinking about overhauling our nature area next year so we can grow more plants and vegetables and encourage more wildlife into the Little School garden – watch this space!

You will have seen frequent posts from me about **Waste**: litter picking is a regular activity on Forest School days, and we continue to look at other ways of reducing, re-using, and recycling waste that we produce. Food waste collections started this term, and the children are getting really good at scraping their plates after lunch! We also introduced the re-usable wet bags for sending clothes home (thank you for returning these) as a means of reducing single-use plastics that we use. Plastic is a global problem so anything we can do to reduce plastic waste is super important. We no longer use plastic glitter, and also think carefully about the resources we buy, and have many more toys that are made from wood and other sustainable materials, as well as second-hand items we have purchased to give these items another lease of life. The government is introducing a ban on wet wipes containing plastic by Spring 2027 – fortunately, most wet wipe producers have taken this onboard already, and there are lots of plastic-free wipes available on the market. You can also support us by using the textiles recycling bin in the village hall car park for old clothes – as well as being a fantastic way to help the planet, the textiles company makes a payment to Little School

every time they make a collection! The Christmas holidays are a good time to have a good clear out!

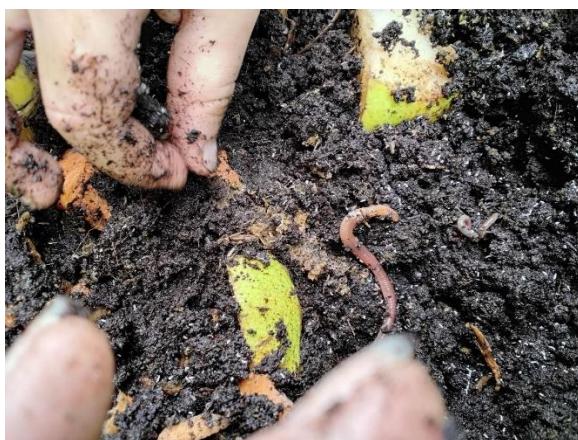
At the moment, **Energy** is an area where we are falling down. All of our services come via the adjoining school which has oil-powered boilers, and mains electricity. We have been teaching the children about the importance of saving energy and encouraging them to turn off the lights whenever we leave the building. Our hope for next year is that we can collaborate with the school to access green energy grants for things like air source heat pumps and solar panels which would be better for the planet and better for our bank account too!

Finally, **thank you** to all our families who brought in decorated tubes for our paperchain of planet promises and pledges! I will share details of all the messages once we have taken down our display.

Here are some photos of the lovely things the children have been doing this term



Claire shows the children a toad in our nature area



Worms in the wormery



Making Christmas decorations from recycled materials with staff from Raymond Brown



Setting up the hedgehog house



Melting ice – save the polar bears and penguins!



Lights off and litter picking before Forest School



Using the sunflowers we grew in the summer to make bird feeders



Taking food donations to the food bank collection van



River dipping in Whitchurch

And so much more!

Sally Lawman, Sustainability Lead