



## What's on this month?

- **Switch Off Fortnight is back!**
- **Get your hands on FREE potato growing kit for your class**
- **Start on carton recycling in the classroom!**

How many bugs did your class find in last months ['What's under your feet challenge'](#)? If you haven't signed up yet it's not too late! You'll receive a pack



## Switch On to Switching Off

Switch off Fortnight 2017 is just around the corner! The Pod's annual energy-saving campaign is running 20 November- 3 December. [Sign up now](#) to join over 1500 other schools who will be gaining access to a huge range of curriculum-linked resources, including everything you need to teach your class all about where our energy comes from and why we should use less.

Introduce 'Switch Off Fortnight' to your class with the video and presentation provided in the resource materials. The resources cover topics such as wind farms, nuclear energy and what your

containing a giant interactive poster and stickers, and be in with a chance to win a visit to the British Trust of Ornithology's headquarters for your class and meet Chris Packham!



school can do to save energy. Curriculum links are clearly shown in the lesson plans provided, making it easy to integrate Switch Off Fortnight into your class' learning. For example the 'Switch On to Switching Off' lesson plan for KS2 shows curriculum links to topics in Geography, ICT and Art and Design, so it's easy to tailor the fortnight to suit your class.

Get your class thinking about energy saving with the energy audit activity; recording how many appliances have been left on standby in each of the classrooms. They'll love the opportunity to tell teachers off! Motivate your pupils with crazy facts. Did you know leaving a photocopier on overnight uses enough energy to produce more than 1500 copies?!

Joining this campaign is also a great way to cover the Energy topic of the Eco-Schools award scheme, all while saving your school money on energy bills!

[Sign up to Switch Off Fortnight!>>](#)



## The early class gets the potatoes!

Get in early and [sign up now](#) for the 2018 'Grow Your Own Potatoes' scheme for primary schools. You and your class will receive a free growing kit with enough materials to grow two crops of potatoes! You will also gain access to downloadable support materials and be in with a chance to enter your harvested weights to win a prize for your school.

This scheme has been running for 14 years and is a fantastic hands-on learning experience for your class. Your pupils will learn about how things grow, healthy eating and where food comes from. There are lots of lesson plans to choose from under the themes of growing, knowing and even cooking your potatoes. All tailored to different age groups. This handy [curriculum table](#) shows exactly which parts of the curriculum each lesson plan fits with, so it's easy to choose lessons and activities that would best suit your class.

Teach KS2 Science under the Plants topic with [Lesson One](#), which involves labelling the plant anatomy of your home grown potatoes. There are also resources especially tailored to special needs education. Your school can register up to four separate classes to take part. The deadline for registration isn't until January 26 2018, but these spaces fill up fast!

[Sign up for a free growing kit! >>](#)



## Get Smart On Carton Recycling



Learn more about carton recycling >>

Schools have been offering free and subsidised milk to their pupils since the 1940s, but did you know that the cartons can be recycled? In Dacorum all cartons are accepted in your schools dry mixed recycling bin. Make sure your class is in the know! Cartons of milk and juice that your class may drink in their lunch or break time can all be popped in your recycling bin.

To help teach your class about the importance of carton recycling, [‘Smart On Carton Recycling’](#) have created a range of resources for primary schools. Check out their [teacher zone](#) for activities, puzzles and some fun fact sheets to help you plan a lesson that gets your class recycling their cartons! There is also a clear, easy to understand breakdown of the recycling process which could be incorporated into a KS2 curriculum linked lesson plan. Don’t forget this can also work towards the waste topic of an Eco-Schools award!

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## Waste Talks and Workshops





This month we visited Hammond Academy to give a whole school assembly all about why recycling is so important. We also visited Northchurch Cub and Scout groups to give a workshop on litter and recycling. The cubs were so inspired to stop litter they asked to borrow our equipment to do their own litter pick! Would you like us to come and visit your school? Our curriculum linked workshops fits in well with KS1 Everyday Materials topic for Science and helps you work towards your Eco-Schools award too.

# Eco-Schools

Congratulations to Lime Grove Nursery for their fantastic work reaching their Green Flag award, and also to Dacorum Education Support Centre who have now received their Bronze Award! We want to see 100% of schools in Dacorum registered to Eco-Schools and reaching for their next award. We currently have 78% of schools registered, so there's only a few left that need to sign up! Where is your school in the table? If you want to register or are working towards your next award level, but don't know where to start, get in touch and we can help.

Eco-School Award Level	Number of schools	Percentage of schools in the Borough
Green Flag	3	4%
Silver Award	25	36%
Bronze Award	15	22%
No Award	11	16%
Total Registered	54	78%

[Find out more about Eco-Schools >>](#)

## Crafts



### Get crafty this Halloween!

Want to know a scary fact? Each year around 18,000 tonnes of pumpkin are thrown away at Halloween?!

This upcycled bird feeder is a great way to get your class to reuse their carved pumpkins, and a reminder that all parts of a pumpkin can be used. Don't forget to use the pumpkin innards in your seed mix!

[Make a pumpkin bird feeder >>](#)

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