



## Back to School!

Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed your summer holidays and are looking forward to the year ahead. We have some great ideas to help you kick start your term. From celebrating Recycle Week with your class, to learning about nature with the RSPB's Wild Challenge and The Pod's bug survey.

We'd love to hear what your class has been up to. Have you signed up for the [RHS school gardening scheme](#) yet? They're sending out a free growing planner to help plan your year. Share your story with us and you could feature in next month's edition! This month we hear from Two Waters Primary School about



## Celebrate Recycle Week

Recycle Week 2017 is coming this 25 September- 1 October, with the theme 'Recycling- It's Worth It'. We've put together all the resources you need to introduce Recycle Week to your class so you don't have to.

Begin by showing your class these short [videos](#) to demonstrate what happens to different items when they are recycled. Once your class understands the value of recycling, they'll be excited to get recycling in their own classroom. Now is an ideal time to

their fantastic new play area made out of recycled materials!



get [set up](#) with a good recycling regime for the school year ahead. Your class could make posters to show which items can go in the recycling bin to help your class recycle right.

Teach your pupils about recycling as part of the maths, science and English national curriculum, using the activities provided in the WRAP teacher's [activity pack](#). Each National Curriculum topic is clearly stated above the activity, so it's easy to choose one to suit your class. These activities are replicated for each type of material that can be recycled, giving you plenty of material to work with.

[Download the Recycle Week pack>>](#)



## Recycling is child's play!

Two Waters Primary School has a brand new Early Years play area made from recycled materials! The school collaborated with Osborne and Bovis Homes to design the playground using materials left over from the construction of Manor Estate in Apsley.

The pupils were involved in every step of the design process. A focus group made up of reception and year 6 pupils met with the Osborne team to share their ideas and discuss plans. The playground features a climbing wall made out of pallets, a tyre assault course, a shop, a sensory garden and more! Parents got involved too by donating old pots and pans for the music wall. There is also a construction area full of all sorts of exciting materials, from decking planks, to cable reels and plastic tubing. This is a fantastic way to encourage play with real life objects, rather than toys, which fits with a recent shift in the curriculum focus for Early Years Learning.

Miss Bethany Ward, Early Years Lead, says “the children are working together more collaboratively in the new play area, and the new design encourages safe risk taking”. The playground encourages learning through the whole range of topics in the national curriculum and most importantly, the children love it!

If you're interested in creating a recycled playground, or you have one you'd like to share with us, please get in touch!



## 'What's Under Your Feet' this October



Get your pupils outdoors with this creepy crawly survey from The Pod. All you have to do is dig up a patch of dirt, examine it, count the bugs you find and report back to the Pod. By doing so your class will work scientifically and develop skills in identification, sampling, measuring and data collection.

The data collected by your class will help the British Trust for Ornithology understand how the availability of insects is impacting declining bird populations and whether there is a link to climate change. The activity involves a free starter presentation, resources and lesson plans.

[Sign up here>>](#)

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## Take the RSPB Wild Challenge



The Wild Challenge award scheme prompts children to connect with and learn about nature through a range of activities. There are 24 activities included and you can use as many or few as you like at your own pace. Each activity you do works toward a bronze, silver or gold award and your class will be sent a certificate and stickers for their efforts. All you need to do is register your class to access the [free resources](#). Eco-schools accept a Wild Challenge bronze award as completion of the Eco-School Biodiversity topic! This is a fantastic structured way to achieve your next Eco-School award and all of the resources are already prepared for you.

These activities fit into the National Curriculum for KS1 and 2 under a range of topics. 'Wild writing' can be incorporated in the Poetry topic for KS2 English. 'Plant Safari' involves identifying plants in quadrats and could be used as a lesson plan for KS1 Science. Some activities are also suitable

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for Early Years, such as 'Sensing the World', which encourages children to identify the sights, smells and sounds of the natural world. These are just a few examples; join the challenge and explore the whole range of activities.

[Take the Wild Challenge>>](#)

## Eco-Schools

Congratulations to Boxmoor Primary School for achieving their Bronze Eco-School award! This is the first step of the journey to becoming a Green Flag school. If you're looking to progress to the next award but you're not sure how, get in touch and we can help you out.

Eco-School Award Level	Number of schools	Percentage of schools in the Borough
Green Flag	3	4%
Silver Award	24	35%
Bronze Award	14	20%
No Award	11	16%
Total Registered	52	75%

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

## Crafts

### Make a Bug Bucket!

Let creepy crawlies feel at home on your school grounds. All sorts of bugs and beetles live in rotting wood and leaves, a beetle bucket would provide them with the perfect habitat. This is a great opportunity to make future habitat explorations with your class easier later in the year. It's also a great way



to reuse broken buckets that you may have around the school! As this activity requires some digging, it would work perfectly alongside the 'What's Under your feet'?

[Make a bug bucket >>](#)

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