

The SEED needs your help to grow. Please [forward this email](#) on to all of the teaching staff at your school.

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May 2018



What's on this month?

- **Outdoor Classroom day**
- **"I Can Grow..."**
- **Help us reach 100% Eco-Schools!**

The sunshine has finally arrived, just in time for Outdoor Classroom Day on 17 May!

This issue we talk about all things Eco-Schools after the news that they've launched a brand new Marine topic!

Did you take part in [RSPBs Big Schools Birdwatch](#) back in January? The results are

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY



Outdoor Classroom Day!

Outdoor Classroom Day is a global campaign to celebrate and [inspire](#) outdoor learning and play. On the day, thousands of schools around the world take lessons outdoors and prioritise playtime. In 2017, over 2 million children in over 100 countries took part.

Outdoor learning improves children's health, engages them

now in! Take a look with your class.

Dates for your diary:

October 2018: WEEE collections are back! After a year off, Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment recycling collections from schools will be taking place again this October, so start storing your old electronics ready now!

with learning and leads to a greater connection with nature. Play not only teaches critical life skills such as resilience, teamwork and creativity, but is central to children's enjoyment of childhood.

Any subject can be taught outside, the [OCD website](#) is full of [inspirational ideas](#), or you could use resources from organisations such as The Pod or the Woodland Trust.

[Outdoor Classroom Day >>](#)

'I Can Grow' with the RHS

'I Can Grow' is a new project from the RHS School Gardening programme. Students take the lead to garden for a cause they care about. They can choose the topic that inspires them most from four options: -I can grow.... 'food', -'in a changing climate', -'a happy place' or -'for wildlife'. The activities provided will help them design their garden based on their campaign, for example if they are growing plants for wildlife, which plants might be good for pollinators? Or if they are growing for wellbeing, which plants are the best for the senses?

The project can be tailored to your class's learning outcomes and would fit in well with a range of Eco-Schools topics including Biodiversity, School Grounds and Health and Wellbeing. Your school garden would also provide the perfect space to take part in The Pods ['What's under your feet'](#) activity to



search for creepy crawlies on the school grounds.

Sign up to receive your free 'I Can Grow' inspiration pack, containing a project guide, seeds, stickers and more! Packs are limited so get in quick.



[Sign up to 'I can grow' scheme>>](#)



Litter Heroes!

Congratulations to all the schools who took part in the annual Great British Spring Clean litter picking campaign this March! Chaulden Infants, Yewtree Primary, Two Waters, St Thomas Moore School, Holtsmere End Infant, Westfield Primary and Boxmoor Primary all got stuck in. With all your hard work you're fighting plastic pollution and keeping your school looking spic and span!



During the Great British Spring Clean we visited over 450 children to spread the message about litter and recycling. Over the duration of the campaign a massive 200 bags of rubbish and 200 bags of recycling were collected around Dacorum. Don't worry if you missed out, Keep Britain Tidy have announced a new 'Plastic Pick Up' litter picking weekend this May to help tackle plastic pollution.

[Great Plastic Pick Up>>](#)

Free School Composters!

Earlier this month we celebrated International Compost Awareness Week, which reminded us of the benefits of composting and recycling our food waste. Did you know that nearly a third of the UK's household waste can be composted? Or that composting at home for a year saves the same amount of greenhouse gases as not using your washing machine for three months?

Composting in schools can be used as a tool to deliver the national curriculum. It is a great way to get outdoors and teach children about the nutrient cycle, what happens to our household waste, how living things depend on each other and about living things and their habitats. Composting ties in brilliantly with the RHS "I Can Grow..." scheme too. A [free lesson plan](#) has been developed by The POD for you to use for ages 4-7.

Is your school composting yet?

Did you know that to help you get started, every school in Hertfordshire can get their hands on two free composters and two free 5L food waste caddies? Just send an email with your schools details.



[Claim your free composter>>](#)

Eco-Schools

Help us reach 100% Eco-Schools!



Eco-Schools
England

The Eco-Schools programme is the largest education programme in the world. It is an amazing global initiative which encourages and empowers children to learn more about their environment by providing a framework to help them learn about key topics.

We're proud to say that an incredible 85% of schools in Dacorum are now registered Eco-Schools!

But, we can beat this! We want Dacorum to provide the greenest education possible for its younger citizens. We are aiming for every single primary school in the borough to be signed up as an Eco-School. To reach that 100% we just need the 11 remaining schools to sign up and begin their Eco-Schools journeys

Check out your position in the borough's league table below... Is your school one of the 11 left to register? Could it be striving for its next award? Or even a Green Flag?

The Eco-School programme is based on a [seven step process](#). The first 3 steps make up the Bronze Award, the next 3 steps make up the Silver Award. These awards are both self-assessed and take an average of 6 months to achieve in total.

To achieve your first Green Flag Award, your school will choose three Eco-School topics to focus on: Transport, Waste, Litter, Water, School Grounds, Healthy Living, Energy, Biodiversity or Global Citizenship.

A great way to incorporate your chosen topic into your lesson plans is to complete a partner project. Many of you may already be doing these projects with your classes! For example:

- The Woodland Trust's Green Tree Awards links to the 'Biodiversity Topic' .
- The Pod's 'Switch Off Fortnight' links to the 'Energy' topic .
- Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean links to the 'Litter' topic.

These programmes are curriculum linked, and have clearly set out resources to make your participation as easy as possible. Check out our previous [SEED editions](#) for other examples of projects and ideas.

NEW MARINE TOPIC LIVE FROM 4 JUNE!

From 4 June, a Marine Topic has now been launched too! This is Eco-School's first new topic since their programme started in 1994. In the wake of Blue Planet 2 we've seen a huge increase in interest in marine issues such as plastic pollution and single-use plastics. You can

inspire your pupils by teaching them the links between land litter and marine pollution. Take a look at [Surfer's Against Sewage plastic free schools](#) programme, or [MCS Cool Seas](#) resources for ideas. You could also link to freshwater rivers, or wider global issues such as sea level change or sustainable fishing.

Find out more about Eco-Schools>>

Congratulations to **South Hill** and **Belswains Primary Schools** for taking their first steps and registering to become Eco -Schools! If you want to register or are working towards your next award level, but don't know where to start, check out the ['How to be a Successful Eco-school'](#) training.

Eco-School Award Level	Number of schools	Percentage of schools in the Borough
Green Flag	2	3%
Silver Award	27	41%
Bronze Award	13	20%
No Award	13	20%
Total Registered	55	83%

Where is your school in the Eco-School Awards table?

School Name	Current Award
Abbot's Hill School	Registered
Albury CofE Primary School	Registered
Aldbury Primary School	Silver
Aycliffe Drive Primary School	Registered
Belswains Primary	Registered
Berkhamsted Prep School	Silver
Berkhamsted School	Bronze
Bishop Wood CofE Junior School	Bronze
Bovingdon Primary Academy	Green Flag
Boxmoor Primary School	Bronze
Broadfield Primary School	Registered
Brockwood Primary School	Silver
Chambersbury Primary School	Bronze
Chaulden Junior School	Registered
Dundale Primary School and Nursery	Silver
Flamstead Village Primary School	Registered

Gaddesden Row JMI Primary School	Silver
Gade Valley JMI School and Nursery	Not registered
George Street Primary School	Not registered
Goldfield Infants' and Nursery School	Silver
Great Gaddesden CofE VA Primary School	Registered
Greenway First and Nursery School	Silver
Grove Road Primary School	Registered
Haresfoot School	Bronze
Haywood Grove	Silver
Heath Lane Nursery	Not registered
Hobbs Hill Wood School	Not registered
Hobletts Manor Infants School	Silver
Hobletts Manor Junior School	Silver
Holtsmere End Infant and Nursery School	Bronze
Holtsmere End Junior School	Silver
Hurst Drive Primary School	Bronze
Jupiter Community Free School	Not registered
Kings Langley School	Silver
Leverstock Green CofE Primary School	Silver
Lime Walk Primary School	Bronze
Little Gaddesden CofE Primary School	Bronze
Lockers Park School	Silver
Long Marston Primary School	Not registered
Maple Grove Primary School	Bronze
Markyate Village School and Nursery	Silver
Micklem Primary School	Silver
Nash Mills CofE Primary School	Silver
Pixies Hill Primary School	Silver
Potten End C of E first	Registered
South Hill Primary School	Registered
St Albert the Great Catholic	Not registered
St Cuthbert Mayne R.C School	Not registered
St Paul's CofE Primary School	Silver
St Rose's Catholic Infants School	Not registered
St. Bartholomew's C of E Primary School	Bronze
St. Marys CofE VA Primary School	Silver
St. Paul's Chipperfield Primary School	Silver
St. Thomas More RC Primary School	Bronze
St. Thomas More RC Primary School	Silver
Swing Gate Infant School	Silver
The Collett School	Silver
The Hammond Primary School	Bronze

The Reddings Primary School & Nursery	Not registered
Tring School	Silver
Tudor Primary School	Silver
Two Waters Primary School	Silver
Victoria C of E Infant and Nursery School	Green Flag
Westbrook Hay Prep School	Registered
Westfield Primary School	Green Flag
Yewtree Primary School	Registered

Find out more about Eco-Schools >>



Teach your class about seed germination with this handy glove propagator! All you need is a clear glove and some cotton wool. Once your seeds have germinated you could plant them in your school garden or in pots on the windowsill. Why not take this activity outside to celebrate Outdoor Classroom day! For full instructions, and lots more ideas, visit the RHS [website](#).

Handy seed germinator

