

Clifton Primary School making a difference.

'As a school, we have committed to pick litter once a term in our village as a way of supporting Ashbourne's 'Let's Lose Litter' initiative.

We started off by taking part in the 'Clean for the Queen' weekend. Every pupil in the school took part, as did some parent helpers. We picked litter in the snow, and were amazed to find the total weight collected on that occasion was 22kg!

In the summer term we picked around the school grounds and village again, collecting 17kg of litter. We will be out and about again soon. The pupils particularly enjoy using their maths skills when weighing bags at the end of the pick. We have bought new litter picking handles and everybody wants to be one of the lucky pickers to use them!

Our Eco Committee have held two competitions in school to raise pupils' awareness of litter issues. The first was a poster competition and the second a recycling competition to make something 'useful' from unwanted rubbish. Prize winners were each given an Eco friendly bird feeder to take home and use in their garden!'

Great work Clifton! It's really good to hear how your school and Eco Committee are making a real difference to the environment in your school and local community.

Share Bristol's free 'Sustainable Learning Resources'

Bristol was a European Green Capital in 2015 and received funding to develop a range of educational resources. Using expert knowledge and additional funding a range of free learning resources were created. 'Sustainable Learning' is the legacy from that time and they are keen to share the resources they have developed with schools throughout the country.

Free resources include templates for your Eco Schools Environmental Review and Action Plan, brilliant instant display resources along with top tips for Green Flag success, an interactive topic web with curriculum linked lesson plans for all nine Eco Schools themes to help you embed

Severn Trent provide free water education sessions for schools

Would your pupils like to know more about how to save water in school or how we clean dirty water?

Severn Trent Water's Schools' Outreach sessions cover the water cycle, water and sewage treatment and water conservation and include:

- Whole school assemblies (interactive with promise postcards for each pupil);
- Class talks and pair/group activities;
- Sewage Treatment DVD;
- Specific group work with school councils and eco-councils looking at reducing water consumption in school.

If you would like to book this please contact Edwina Woodland, Community Relationship Advisor



Email: edwina.woodland@severntrent.co.uk
Mobile: 07836 267 337

Edwina works from 1pm on Tuesday, all day Wednesday and Thursday each week.

For more information or to make an enquiry please visit: www.stwater.co.uk/education

Have you heard of OLIO?

OLIO is a free app that connects neighbours with each other and with local businesses so surplus food can be shared, not thrown away. This could be food nearing its sell-by date in local stores, spare home-grown vegetables, bread from your baker, or the groceries in your fridge when you go away. For your convenience OLIO can also be used for non-food household items too.

OLIO is very easy to use. To make an item available, simply open the app, add a photo, description, price (if applicable,) and when and where the item is available for pick-up.

To access items, simply browse the listings available near you, request whatever takes your fancy and arrange a pick-up via private messaging.

OLIO believe that small actions can lead to big change. "Collectively – one rescued cupcake, carrot or bottle of lotion at a time – we can build a more sustainable future where our precious resources are shared, not thrown away."

Eco Schools into your school. Inspirational lesson plans and teaching resources to support teaching sustainability across the curriculum. You will love the award winning 'Sustainable Shaun' game developed with Aardman Animations to help children learn about creating a more sustainable future.

Visit www.sustainablelearning.com for great ideas to support your Eco Schools journey. Select Teaching Resources then filter by theme.

Well done!

and congratulations on their achievements since the last Green Flag went to press.

Green Flag
Belmont Primary School
Northfield Junior School

Registered
Marsh Lane Primary School

The Green Flag

ECO NEWS FOR ALL SCHOOLS IN DERBYSHIRE

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As part of Swadlincote International Food Festival a number of local schools took part in a special 'Baking Bonanza' sponsored by the Sainsbury's 'Waste less, Save more' project. Schools cooked up as many cakes as they wished, all using ingredients that may have been thrown away.

Fantastic creations included a Victoria Sponge using up forgotten about jam, a Macaroon masterpiece using ground almonds bought but never used, a chocolate cake incorporating ripe oranges and a Butterly Sticky Bonanza mixing up brown bananas, ginger spice and golden syrup.

Netherseal St Peters Primary School baked the winning cake, a 'Zingy Veg Cake'. Created by the children who had brought in a range of leftover vegetables as they wanted to make a healthy veggie cake. It included the usual cake mix of self raising flour, caster sugar, 3 eggs, butter and 1 teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda. Special ingredients included mixed spice, zest and juice of 1 large orange, 1 carrot, 1 parsnip, 1 sweet potato and some sultanas.



The icing on the cake included icing sugar, dried mandarins and orange juice. It was an unusual mixture but tasted great!



The entry form stated 'As an Eco School, the children used their knowledge of where waste goes, to put peelings, egg shells etc into the compost heap or given to local farmers to feed their livestock. They suggested using other leftovers in other recipes such as smoothies, stews and soups.

The dry ingredients were securely fastened or put into containers to be used at our school Cookery Club or for other activities such as in Science. Butter was frozen to be used later.'



It was really good to hear that the children had thought about what they use and how many ingredients get wasted. They had clear ideas of how to avoid waste and use things up. Well done everyone who entered and especially the winning team at Netherseal.



Here are some of the amazing 'School Baking Bonanza' creations.

Lunch waste audits

Gamesley School received a waste bursary last year and carried out a case study on how to do a food waste audit. They measured not only the total amount of food waste each day, but also started to look at specific types of waste. Over the period of the project they used a range of activities including assemblies, posters and badges, and also support from midday staff to keep everyone involved and aware of the need to reduce food waste. The school looked at practical aspects in terms of how food was served and presented, and found that small changes meant that children got the food they needed, but didn't waste as much.

Rebecca Bridges and Dawn Shields shared their work with us at the Eco Conference. They had experimented with how to reduce their food waste and explored a variety of ways to solve problems. As part of their case study they wrote;

Waste is a priority topic for our school as we work towards the Green Flag award – identified by the Eco Committee environmental audit last year.

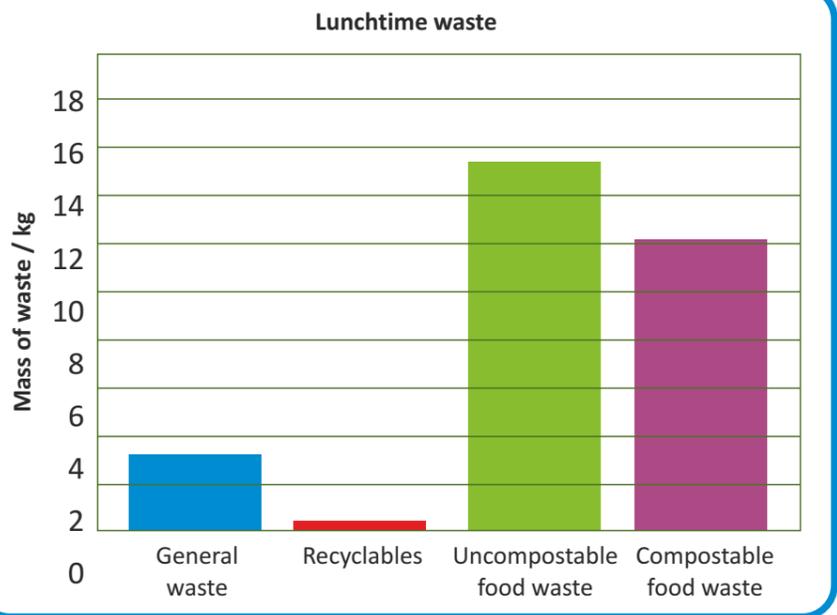
In order to find out how much rubbish we were throwing away at lunchtime and how well we were sorting our waste, we decided to carry out a series of undercover lunchtime surveys. Brave Dawn donned face mask and gloves to delve into the rubbish bins! She did this on the same day in the week (jacket potato day, proven by previous surveys to generate more waste by mass) once a month over four months.

The school measured food waste as well as raising awareness of the issues around wasting food. We did an audit of the food wasted by children from food they were served but did not eat. The waste was sorted four ways: into recyclable and non-recyclable packaging, compostable food waste (raw fruit, vegetable peelings, etc.), non-compostable food waste (cooked food). This was then bagged and weighed on kitchen scales. We shared with the children how the cooked food that we don't eat and throw away goes to landfill where it rots down and produces unnecessary greenhouse gas. The results proved to be quite revealing. After the initial survey, we looked at the data with the Eco Committee. They were shocked by the volume of rubbish being thrown away, as shown in the graph below. Additionally the rubbish was not being sorted correctly either. However, through discussion and questioning, we discovered that although the children knew that it was a good thing to waste less, reuse and recycle, they didn't really understand why and we had to educate them about this.

We held a special meeting with the Eco Committee, Pupil Parliament Environment Minister and Assistant Head to discuss ways to reduce food waste.

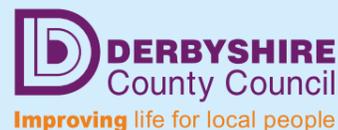
Before getting started with the project, we drew up a clear action plan, with lots of ideas to try. The action plan identified who would help, what they would do and when. The children came up with lots of ideas: to re-site the compost and recycling bin to a more obvious location; to investigate the possibility of children asking for half a potato or a smaller portion; for children to be encouraged to eat their dinner before returning to fill up on bread or pasta salad; to make posters; to present an assembly via PowerPoint (that they helped create) to teach others about climate change and the impact of food waste on the environment as well as to launch the campaign; follow-up assemblies to share progress and help keep their peers motivated; to be rewarded with merit stickers and Waste Warrior badges.' Such an active whole school approach meant that everyone got involved and the landfill waste was reduced!"

Well done Team Gamesley – and especially Dawn and Becca who led it!! If you want to do a food waste audit please contact Anne Welch for information on how to get set up.



Anne Welch contact details

Telephone: 01629 539792
 Email: anne.welch@derbyshire.gov.uk
 Address: Waste Management, Shand House, Darley Dale, DE4 3RY



Shoe Aid – a charity that really makes you think about what is important!

Some people can tell you where they were when they saw images of major world events. They remember haunting pictures of the Twin Towers attack and the Boxing Day Tsunami for example. One picture from the 2004 Tsunami was of some shoes on the beach. These were a poignant reminder of the joy and relaxation on the beach prior to the massive wave sweeping away all before it. Lee Todd saw this image and didn't just try to forget it, he thought deeply about those shoes. Who had worn them? How they got there? What happened to the owner of the shoes? He thought about the role of shoes in our lives and did some research.

The Shoe Aid team have worked with various agencies to estimate these startling figures:
 There are approximately 1.5 billion people in 'shoe poverty' - lacking shoes.
 300 million children do not have shoes.
 70 million children are not able to attend school as shoes are part of the uniform and they don't have any.
 30,000 people a year die from infections in their feet or illnesses acquired by not having shoes to protect their feet.
 2 million pairs of shoes are thrown away in the UK every week.

Lee, who is the site manager for Cloudside Junior School, started to consider what to do about this, but didn't get started until he had a life changing experience when his car was hit by a lorry and he literally saw his life pass before his eyes, including seeing those shoes on the beach again. He decided he needed to get on and do something to make the world a better place so in 2010 he started Shoe Aid.

Shoe Aid aims to re-distribute unwanted shoes, which often get thrown away and sent to landfill or burned, so that they get sent to people who need them and will re-use them. They collect shoes of all sorts from slippers and trainers to wellington

boots, all sizes, mens, womens and childrens shoes, good shoes that were too uncomfortable to wear, shoes that are broken or worn. Shoes that are too impractical for use in developing countries have materials that can be re-used to fashion something more useful.

Some schools have been supporting this charity for years and it has been mentioned in the Green Flag News before, but to encourage more schools and communities to take part there are some exciting new developments:

- Your pupils can enter a Design a Shoe competition supported by De Montford University. Students there will use the design to develop a shoe as part of their design work.
- Younger pupils can enter the competition to colour in a shoe.
- There is a special resources pack about shoes and their importance, which will be available from the New Year. To request a resources disc please let Anne Welch know you want to join in.
- There are special Shoe Aid bins, to collect shoes in school, at a price of £20. Perhaps you could raise money by having a non uniform shoe day, where pupils wear their own choice of shoes and pay 50p to contribute to buying a bin?
- A representative from Shoe Aid is very willing to come out to your school to lead an assembly about Shoe Aid. If you would like this please contact lee@shoeaid.co.uk
- Of course, also doing a shoe collection in school is the most useful thing to do. There is information about how best to do this on the resources disc. It's easy to organise a Shoe collection following the simple processes listed on the disc which explain how to work with the Shoe Aid volunteers to agree a pick up date prior to setting everything up. This means you don't need to have a hall full of shoes for days on end.



Lee Todd, founder of Shoe Aid

Shoe Aid is being supported by Eco Schools as a great charity with global impact, which helps reduce waste. This has been developed in Derbyshire through Lee's vision and commitment. It would be wonderful if lots of Derbyshire Schools got involved.

It's an inspired project and as Lee says "a total no brainer." None of the staff or children at school need to throw away any shoes and if we encourage parents, grandparents, neighbours and friends to join in, we can make a real difference to end shoe poverty.



Compost Champions

Don't forget you can apply for one or two free compost bins for your school to use (unless you have already received them). You will find these useful to put in any uncooked food scraps, such as vegetable peelings, a few pieces of left over cores or skins from fruit time at breaks and perhaps the odd bit of left over salad at lunchtime, along with pieces of card or paper. This will mean that you are throwing less waste into your bin and the compost you will make is truly something for nothing. After 18-24 months you will have lovely compost to pot up plants or put on your garden.

A number of schools have 'Compost Champions' where all or some of their pupils are trained to be able to manage compost bins.

Congratulations to Pilsley, Gamesley, Rowsley and Shirland Schools for having keen teams of Compost Champions who know how to make compost having completed the Compost Champions training workshop. If you would like to order compost bins or perhaps you have bins but are not using them as well as you could and require training, then get in touch with Anne Welch to arrange a session.

