



## **School Eco Newsletter: A Greener Future for Castle Hill – Rooksdown**

*By Riley G (Y6) and Mrs Brown (Eco Champion Co-ordinator)*

### **Eco-Champions Update!**

This newsletter highlights the fantastic work of our dedicated Eco-Champions! They've been busy evaluating our school's environmental efforts and planning exciting initiatives for a greener future.

### **Environmental Audit: A Snapshot**

Our Eco-Champions conducted a thorough review of our school's environmental practices. We scored well in areas like transportation and water usage, but there's always room for improvement! Key areas for focus this year include:

- **School Grounds:** Enhancing outdoor learning spaces and encouraging biodiversity.
- **Litter:** Reducing waste through responsible disposal and raising awareness.
- **Biodiversity:** Encouraging wildlife through habitat creation (like our new sensory garden!).

### **Tackling Litter Together!**

We conducted a litter survey, identifying areas needing extra attention, like the trim trail and targeted this area when litter picking. Thanks to Yassin and Oscar (Year 5) for their initiative in litter picking and inspiring others! The Eco-Champions are preparing a school-wide assembly about litter reduction and recycling. We'll also be launching a Summer Holiday poster competition to raise awareness about responsible waste disposal!

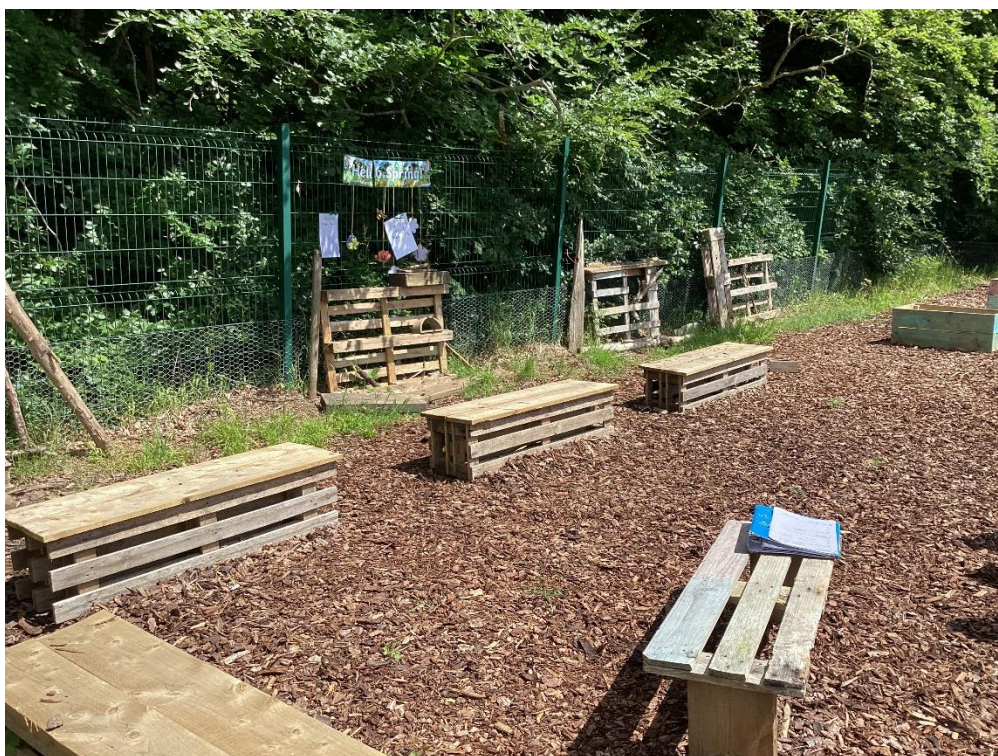
### **Blooming with Activity: School Grounds Development**

Following the Landscape Strategy Plan, we've already implemented exciting projects like the sensory garden and trail, sandpit in the EYFS area as well as our 'Book Nook'. We're also thrilled to announce a new outdoor learning structure and storage shed coming this summer! The Fundraising Friends have donated money towards our outdoor projects, including the book nook and have given us a further £1000 towards developing our outdoor grounds. We will be using the money to buy some resources for the outdoor KS1 area, as well as more general resources for all the pupils during outdoor learning times, such as watering cans, a water butt, kneeling pads and some resources for our sensory garden including archways, water catchers and soil for the planters.

We appreciate any further support with plant donations or equipment for our grounds.

### **Encouraging Biodiversity:**

We're excited about our sensory garden and wildlife trail, thanks to expert advice from the Hampshire and IOW Trust and dedicated volunteers from Chevron Volunteers & Greener Spaces. They helped clear overgrown areas, laid down weed prevention and walkways through our woods to join up with the sensory garden, built bug hotels and benches, and created planters for our gardens. Eco-Champions even got their hands dirty planting donated hedgerows! Mrs Ayling has also enjoyed using the area to carry out 'forest school' type activities which different groups of children and looks forward to continuing this in the new academic year.



### **Inspiring the Future: Eco Code**

Year 1 created a fantastic "Eco Code" for the school, using "Castle Hill" as an acrostic poem to remind everyone of our environmental responsibilities. It's a great way to promote eco-friendly behaviour within our school community!

**C**ollect your litter

**A**lways put it in the correct bin

**S**tay healthy

**T**urn off the lights and taps

**L**et's work together to save energy

**E**nsure we reduce waste and recycle where we can

Help the world to be cleaner

Inviting school grounds for nature and wildlife

Let's look after our school together

Love and respect our planet

### **Join the Eco-Champions Team!**

Thank you to the Eco-Champions for their dedication and enthusiasm! Let's continue working together towards a greener and healthier school environment!



We saw a surge of interest in joining the Eco-Champions! In September 2024, we'll be opening up opportunities for new champions in each class. Parents, governors, and local community members are also welcome!

### **Summer Holiday Competition!**

Get creative! We're launching a Summer Holiday poster competition to promote anti-littering. KS1 can design posters encouraging litter pick-up, while KS2 will create posters for bins, illustrating what goes in each (recycling vs. general waste). Submit your design via email to the school admin office, or bring it in during the first week back in September. The new Eco-Champions will judge the entries and announce winners!