

ECO SCHOOLS AGENDA – 2019/2020

In January I was tasked, alongside Mr. Georgy, with the development of the schools eco agenda. This is a short report explaining small steps we have made and our vision going forwards.

A small eco club was set up in January consisting of pupils from year 7 and 8. We meet every Thursday and have been working on a few small areas.

- We have planted up two raised beds and are currently harvesting beetroot, cauliflower, radish, strawberries, spring onion and rhubarb.
- We collect and process eco bricks.
- We have created a wall display using bottle tops to raise awareness of single use plastics.
- We upcycled single use plastic bottles to make bird feeders, pen holders, irrigation units and pencil cases.
- We have spent some time with St. Mary's Clayton and built links with Michael Mashiter. This culminated in a joint presentation at St. Mary's alongside the Bishop.

Myself, and Mr. Georgy attended an Eco schools conference in June. We have gathered many ideas from this, primarily in respect to achieving bronze eco schools accreditation and green flag status. Much of what we do so far, however small, can be included in our bid. Simply having an Eco club is on tick in a box.

BRONZE AWARD (3 STEPS)

STEP 1 – ECO COMMITTEE

- Eco committee (separate from ACN Eco club – but pupils from Eco club involved on a rotation).
- Pupils share responsibility with adult members. Interest so far from, Mrs. Fielding, Mr. Smith, Mr. Georgy, Mrs. McDonnell, Miss. Owen. ITT students also encouraged to attend.
- Should meet every half term with minutes displayed on Eco notice board. ACN to use board outside G2.
- Pupil representatives ensure that ideas are communicated to the rest of the school. This could be developed during weekly Eco club sessions, perhaps in the form of a newsletter, designed by the pupils to give to forms.

STEP 2 – ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

- There are ten topics to consider during the review. Three can be focus areas for the first Green Flag application.
- A review of the school's approach to these areas can be discussed on the committee, and the findings displayed on the Eco board. PTO for the ten topics.

1. **SCHOOL GROUNDS – MEMORIAL GARDEN, ALLOTMENT.**
2. **WASTE – RECYCLING. BOOK SAWP TO TIE IN WITH LITERACY.**
3. **LITTER – LITTER PICKS, ECO BRICKS, MONITOR FOOD CONSUMPTION ON YARD.**
4. ENERGY – HALF TERMLY LIGHT CHECK, ECO CLUB TO PLACE A RED STICKER ON LIGHTS LEFT ON AFTER PERIOD 5 IF ROOM NOT IN USE. NAME AND SHAME FOR FUN ONLY!
5. BIODIVERSITY – BUG HOTELS, HEDGEHOG RUNS, WILD FLOWER BED IN ALLOTMENT FOR POLLINATORS. BIRD BOXES IN DT?
6. HEALTHY LIVING – CURRICULUM LINKS WITH FOOD, SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY. ACN HAS COMPLETED LEVEL 2 FOOD HYGIENE COURSE TO ENABLE 'FROM THE GROUND TO THE PLATE' ACTIVITES. POSSIBLE TRIP TO FOOD PRODUCERS IN WEST LANCASHIRE. MEAT FREE MONDAY?
7. GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP – LINKS WITH OTHER ECO SCHOOLS ABROAD.
8. TRANSPORT – CLEANING ROAD SIGNS, POSTERS ON SCHOOL GATES ENCOURAGING CARS TO TURN OFF ENGINES WHEN DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP PUPILS?
9. WATER – FOUNTAINS, BANNING SINGLE USE PLASTIC. LINKS TO WATER AID/PSHE.
10. MARINE – PLASTIC IN THE OCEANS PROJECT/POSTERS/ASSEMBLIES. ACN HAS EVIDENCE OF THIS FROM ECO CLUB.

Basically bronze and silver awards are achieved on the way to the green flag status being awarded. The bronze and silver steps ensure the **3 topics** are monitored and delivered. The evaluation procedure and report, plus a visit results in the award of the Green flag being given. An evidence base is already being collated by ACN. This report can form part of the school's Environmental Review.

STEP 3 – ACTION PLAN

- Eco committee produces an action plan (pupil led), influenced by the environmental review.
- Timescales, responsibilities and topic actions noted.
- Action plan shared with school.
- Displayed on Eco board.

STEP 4/5 – SILVER TBA

STEP 6/7 – GREEN FLAG TBA.

So, this report highlights the start of our journey. My vision is that in September we establish the Eco committee alongside maintaining the Eco club led by ACN. We have a notice board and Eco newsletter to communicate the ideas with school. We also carry out the environmental review and action plan. This can all be discussed in an Eco committee meeting in the first half term and actioned by ACN and the Eco club pupils to achieve the bronze award.

I propose that we can discuss timescales in our meeting with XAV this week.

I hope this helps as a starting point on our Eco journey!

Andy Crighton – Eco coordinator.

NOTES.