

Eco Conference



By Louis and Emilia



E: My name is Emilia and I am in Year 5 at Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School.

L: My name is Louis and I am also in Year 5 at Our Lady.

E: We are Eco Leaders and what we do is make sure that our plants, wildlife and environment at our school is well cared for and well looked after.

L: We were voted to be Eco Leaders by our class mates as they felt we would be best for the job, because we care so much about our planet! We are passionate about caring for God's creation.

E: Here are some fun facts about us! My favourite flower is the periwinkle – I'm not sure why, but I've always loved them!

L: My favourite flower is the orchid. I love how they have different patterns and different colours.

E: We are going to tell you today all about our Eco Work at Our Lady and St Joseph.

L: We hope you enjoy our presentation. We created this all by ourselves. We are happy to answer any questions at the end.

Our School Achievements:

Queen's Green Canopy School – 2022

Eco Green Flag Award – 2022

RHS Level 4 Award – 2023

Oscar Romero Developer Level Award -2023

Our gardening club leader made the final 5 of the National RHS School Gardener of the Year Competition - 2023.

L: We are very proud of all of our Ecological achievements as a school. Last year, we became a Queen's Green Canopy School, because we planted lots of trees on the school grounds, in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We were all awarded with coin-medals from the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for our hard work, which was a real privilege as only two schools in Hampshire won this award. We also have an Eco Green Flag Award.

E: This year, we also have received a Level 4 Royal Horticultural Society Award for our work on gardening and enterprise. We also have an Oscar Romero Developer Level award, which only 8 schools in the country have! We did lots of work on stewardship and care for creation as part of gaining this award.

L: We are very proud of our Gardening Club leader and Year R Teaching Assistant Mrs Rothwell as she made the FINAL FIVE of the National RHS School Gardener of the Year competition.



E: We will tell you about how all of our Eco Work started! In 2021, our Year 6 School Council went to a mini COP-26 conference at the Primary Catholic Partnership in Southampton. They met with other schools to carry out an Environmental Review and created an Eco Plan for Our Lady!

L: OLSJ decided to focus on reducing our energy and developing our grounds. Then, Year 6 delivered an assembly to the whole school. Everybody was very excited and engaged and caught the Eco Bug! We haven't been able to stop working on our Eco plans ever since!



L: We were very lucky that Zach from CARITAS came to help us get started! He worked with us in 2022 to get our Eco work off the ground! He taught our children how to use tools, how to plant trees, how to encourage biodiversity, and how to look after our grounds.

E: Our pupils love it when Zach comes to work with us as we are so excited to help the environment! We all want to stop climate change and to become architects of a better world. Zach is already an architect of a better world because he is so passionate about our world and he will do whatever he can to help support us! He definitely gets his hands dirty!



E: Zach and Phil from CARITAS helped us to organise a community event after COVID. We invited all of our families and the Catholic Women's League into school to help plant some trees for our Queen's Green Canopy. Here you can see me, my mum and dad and my little brother planting trees!

L: All of the trees were purchased by our wonderful parish. They collected more than £800 across the churches for us to have an orchard. Father David's favourite fruit is a Bramley apple, so of course, we had to have a Bramley Apple Tree!

Outdoor Curriculum



L: However, we don't just wait for Zach from CARITAS to come and help us! We do lots in our school to learn about biodiversity, taking care of our grounds, planting, weeding, gardening and having fun outdoors!

E: Our wonderful Year R Teaching Assistant, Mrs Rothwell, has written an outdoor curriculum to support us with our outdoor learning. Here are some of our children making bug hotels!

Outdoor Curriculum



E: We also love hunting for mini beasts in our wild garden!

L: Last year we created bee hydration stations for our wild garden to make sure that the bees always have somewhere to drink!

Growing and Gardening



L: We grow lots of produce on our school grounds. We even use it in our school dinners! This year, we have harvested and grown potatoes, broad beans, cucumbers, pumpkins, leeks, peas, carrots and courgettes amongst many other things!

E: The strawberries that we have grown were kindly donated to us by parishioners as part of the Jubilee celebrations.

Growing and Gardening



E: Mrs Rothwell and our teachers help us with harvesting and digging up the produce. We take it our school kitchen who prepare it and cook it and put it in our dinners!

L: They turned the potatoes into chips. They also make pumpkin soup! We had the strawberries as dessert with jelly!

Growing and Gardening



E: At Harvest time we donated food that we had grown on the school grounds to give to those in need.

L: Our local food bank charity is the New Forest Basics Bank. We gave them apples, bell peppers, pumpkins and rosemary that we had grown!

RSPB Great Bird Watch



L: We are passionate about all God's creations. I am a keen birdwatcher and I am glad that we do this in school too. Every year we complete the RSPB Great Bird Watch to find out more about the birds that visit Lymington! Did you know that a 'twitcher' travels the world to find rare birds, visiting different countries, but someone who watches birds in this country, is called a 'birder'.

E: The charity donated us lots of bird feeders, bird tables and books to help us with our birdwatching skills!

RSPB Great Bird Watch



E: We also had a home project where we had to make our own bird feeders to hang on the school grounds! Mine is the Golden Snitch and my brother's is the Hedwig bottle!

L: I made the lard balls in the middle to feed the birds that come to our school! They can also be called fat balls!

HOME PROJECTS



L: We do lots of home Eco projects and competitions too so that everyone can join in the fun!

E: We always make an Eco Christmas tree, making our decorations out of recycled materials! My decoration was the Tunnock's Tea Cake snowball! Mrs Prince wore them as earrings!

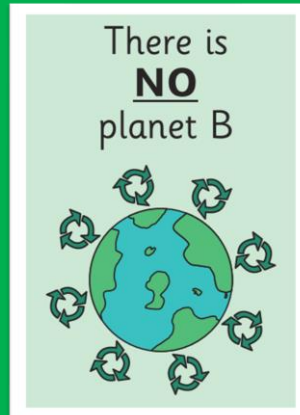
HOME PROJECTS



E: We also worked with the local churches to collect as many plastic bottle tops as possible so that we can keep plastic out of the sea!

L: Look at this fantastic display that we made to keep our sea plastic free!

HOME PROJECTS



E: We also had a competition to design a poster to promote recycling! The winners had their design taken by a graphic designer and turned into a poster!

L: My design is on the left!

Curriculum



L: We learn lots about ecology in school. In Year 5, we wrote speeches about saving the oceans. We were inspired by David Attenborough and the Blue Planet.

E: Here you can see us reading our work. We all recorded our speeches so that parents could watch them at home!



E: We also wrote Eco poetry this year in every year group.

L: We were visited by Lindsey from Greenpeace who did a special assembly for us to launch our Eco Poetry Competition.

Great Gardening Day



E: We hold a great Gardening Day every year where parents come in to help the whole school keep our grounds neat and tidy!

L: We have great fun all working together, to look after our gardens.



L: We also have a super gardening club which is oversubscribed! There is a lunchtime club and an after school club.

E: Here are some pictures of what we get up to! We make fun things like seed bombs and plant lots of seeds and produce.

Parish Links



L: We also have very good links with our Parish. We took part in a “Laudato Si” event at the church. We pre-recorded videos of us sharing our love for the environment and work that we had created in school. However, we recorded our videos on World Book Day! I am Stig of the Dump!

E: And I am Luna Lovegood!



L: We held a Fiver Challenge this year, where every class was given £5 and tasked to make as much profit as they could. Each class had an Eco stall, where they had to sell something they had grown or made.

E: Year R sold posies. Year 1 sold pressed flower cards. Year 2 sold seed bombs. Year 3 sold magic seed paper. Year 4 sold recycled tins as plant pots. Year 5 sold plants. Year 6 sold fairy doors. Our class, Year 5 were the winners! We raised more than £250 for Cancer Research. The whole school raised more than £800 for charity.

The Wider World



E: We love to use our skills that we have learned in school in the wider world. Here is our school on a trip to Rhinefield in the New Forest! We were raising money for CAFOD as part of the Big Lent Walk, but we also put our tree knowledge and learning into practise.

L: We learn so much about the environment in school and we love showing off what we have learned when we are out and about!

Any questions?

