

Communications & Education

Eco Schools Programme – Bishops Itchington Primary School

Contact: Mrs Pam Reason

Background

Bishops Itchington Primary School became an Eco school in 2004, however the school has had an "E Club" since 2003. The e club aims to look at environmental issues in a fun but educational way with children doing various activities. E Club takes place twice a week at lunch times. On a Tuesday it is activity day when the children do quizzes and arts and crafts. Friday is Job day and could be any job including emptying the compost caddies, taking the electricity reading or emptying the recycle bins. Although e club is aimed at key stage 2 pupils including years 3/4/5 and 6 some year 2 pupils have also asked to join in the activities.

Projects

Recycling Area



The recycling area was created in 2003 with the start of E Club. The school recycles numerous items including batteries, plastic bottles, paper, stamps, aluminium can and foil, cardboard, bags, clothes and printer cartridges. This area not only teaches the pupils about recycling and what can be recycled, but the school is also able to make a small amount of money from some of the products such as the clothes collection, which is sent to eastern European

countries and generates 20 pence per kilo. Some of the other products recycled are sent to charity and the rest is loaded into the back of Mrs Reason's (the Eco schools Coordinator) car to be taken to the local recycling centre.

Composting

As the infant classes are entitled to free fruit there is a compost caddy in these rooms, which is regularly emptied into the school's compost bin. Compost caddies are also available in the recycling area for access to all.

Monitoring Electricity Usage

The pupils regularly monitor the school's electricity consumption by taking meter readings. These readings are then graphed and times of peak and low consumption can be viewed.

Notice Board



The notice board is split into four sections of energy, water, waste and general information. The energy section contains lots of information including eco school certificates. The School has also gained its Seven Trent 'don't be a drip' award so has lots of information on water conservation on the water section of the display board. The waste section contains information on recycling and the eco code. Under general information, which is rotated regularly, all sorts of information can be displayed, including Switch It off leaflets and posters designed by pupils.

Communication

Classes receive talks on composting and various other topics. However communication spans further than the classroom with messages being placed in the school's newsletter and web site about E Club activities to keep parents informed. News also gets reported in the local community newsletter to keep the community informed.

Wildlife Area

The wildlife area is obviously a firm favourite with the pupils who enjoy welly walks around it and have a nice space to enjoy and look at the wildlife inhabiting this area. The E Club have been involved in maintaining this area by raking up leaves and grass and learning about the wildlife.

What Has Worked

The children really enjoy E Club and attend meetings during their lunch break. They are so enthusiastic that one of the knock-on effects is parents saying how they are no longer allowed to throw things away without checking first if they can be recycled. Another positive outcome is that electricity bills should be decreasing, however this has been difficult to confirm with estimated billing.

The school received its green flag award in July 2007 and hope to continue the excellent work.

What hasn't work

With every successful project there are some lessons learnt; one such lesson is monitoring the water use in the school which has produced some strange meter readings.

Health and safety issues have also meant that the pupils can no longer take trips to the recycling centre as their co-ordinator's car would require booster seats and they are not allowed out of the vehicle.

The Future

The next project that the E Club hope to work on is improvements to the school's grounds with the addition of raised flower beds and a vegetable patch.