

Communications & Education

Eco Schools Programme – Bilton Junior School, Rugby

Bilton Junior School Projects

The children of Bilton Junior School's Eco-School Action Team and School Council have been very busy. As well as organising many smaller scale activities such as composting, recycling of paper, planting hedges, protesting against packaging excess in Easter eggs, securing funding for a mains fed water cooler and investigating Fair Trade goods, they have established some large scale projects such as installing a bird box camera system and purchasing a weather station to monitor climate change.



Bird Box & Camera system

During autumn 2006 a Bird box and camera system were installed in the woodland area behind the school. The Bird box contains two cameras, which provide an aerial and side view as well as audio of any inhabitants of the box. The children are able to switch between the cameras and, on a whiteboard next to the monitor, record any visitors to their box, recording date and times of sightings. In its first spring there was a lot of interest from birds in the box, however none staying to breed. The cameras will be switched back on late this winter.

Weather Station

Installed in the middle of 2006, the weather station is used across the curriculum by science and Geography, however it was bought by a grant from eco schools who own and manage it. Bilton Junior School's eco schools' action committee is split into small groups with each group having a particular role; this includes two meteorologists. The meteorologists' role is to monitor daily readings and produce weekly reporting for the school newsletter received by over four hundred parents.



Deputy Head Andrew Edwards said the project had been fantastic, giving the pupils an opportunity to look at real life evidence and report on it.

Success

Bilton Junior School was the first green flag eco school in Warwickshire, gaining its green flag award early in 2007. The school was externally assessed on various criteria such as

- ❖ Demonstrate progress towards one large scale project and indicate involvement in two others.
- ❖ Agree, adopt and display an eco code
- ❖ Have regular lines of contact to parents and the wider community about the good work being undertaken in the school.

The school continues to work on its green projects and hopes to retain its green flag status.