



Monday 15th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to share some exciting news, this year our school has made the decision to work towards Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation (<https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>)!

Eco-Schools began in 1994 and is the largest educational programme on the planet, currently there are schools and nurseries in more than 70 countries participating. In England, the Eco-Schools programme is operated by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. The programme aims to involve young people (from nursery children to sixth form students!) in environmental action in their school, or nursery and local community. It does this by providing a simple, seven-step framework that engages young people in environmental discussion and includes them in planning and delivering environmental projects and actions. Essentially, the Eco-Schools programme educates and empowers young people to protect our planet now and throughout their lifetimes.

There are two main reasons we have decided to embark upon the journey to Eco-Schools Green Flag. Firstly, our planet (and all life on it) is already beginning to feel the catastrophic effects of climate change, plastic pollution, biodiversity loss and a myriad of other ecological concerns. Unfortunately, the children we educate, support and care for are set to inherit many of these environmental challenges. Rather than simply surrendering to this inevitability, we have decided to do our best to actively prevent, or at least reduce, the future climate crises they will unfairly face. Furthermore, by involving your children in our efforts now, we will simultaneously be providing them with the knowledge and skills they need to tackle these issues as they grow to become leaders, educators and decision-makers themselves.

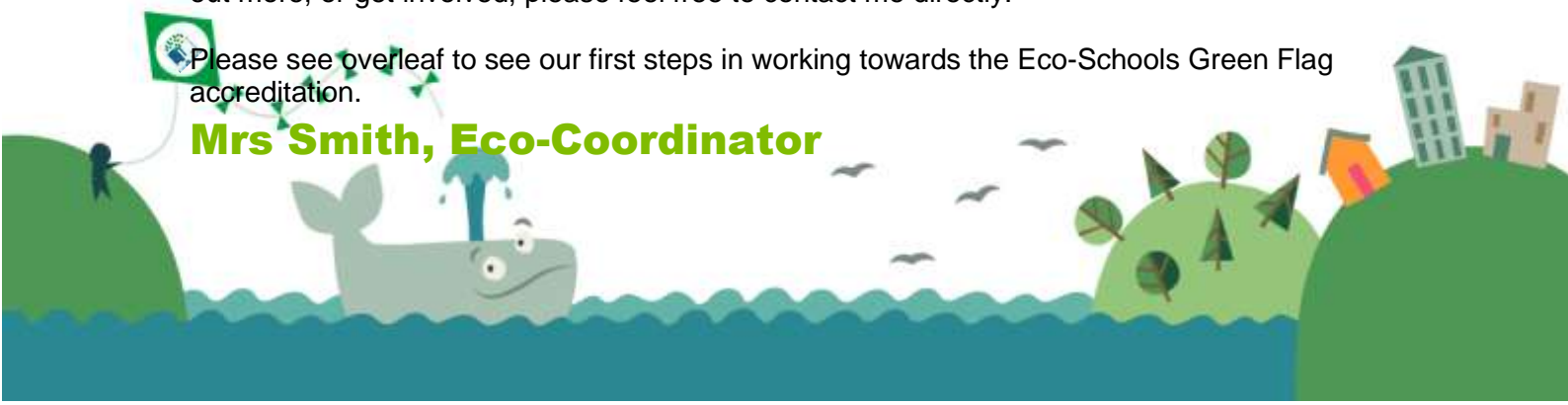
Secondly, participating in the Eco-Schools programme will benefit your child's development and education. As you know our school values a 'whole-child' approach and we are constantly striving to plan and deliver learning opportunities that engage, challenge and support your child. The Eco-Schools programme can help us with this. It provides a relevant rewarding and important context that can grow communication skills; promote social and emotional development; and teach a better understanding of the world.

You may be reading this and wondering, 'How does this impact me?' Well, as we are so early in the Eco-Schools process a detailed answer is difficult. However, over the coming months you may notice: environmental hints and tips included in our communications; invites to litter picks, community gardening days or other eco-events we plan; requests for donations, which might include unwanted goods, time or expertise; and perhaps most strikingly you will notice a very environmentally aware young-person living in your home!

I hope you're just as excited as us about our Eco-Schools journey - if you would like to find out more, or get involved, please feel free to contact me directly.

Please see overleaf to see our first steps in working towards the Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation.

Mrs Smith, Eco-Coordinator





Dear Parent/ Carer,

Is your child interested in helping the environment? Then perhaps they would like to be on the eco committee? The children have had an assembly today about the eco schools' initiative and learnt about what this involves.

If this is something your child would like to be a part of at Wootton Bassett Infants, please complete this form <https://forms.office.com/r/Eq4c2zDLuc> by Monday 22nd November. Alternatively, you can write you answers down and bring them into school.

Their answers for why they would like to be on the eco committee and the ideas they have which would make our school, and school community, more eco friendly will then be shared with their class who will vote for their chosen representative.

If chosen your child will attend monthly meetings (during school time), they will be involved in the running and keeping of minutes for the monthly meeting, their photo and name will be displayed upon our school eco board, they will receive a badge to keep and wear with pride, share ideas and help to make our school, and our school community, more eco friendly and share this with their class.

If this is something you would also like to be involved in, then please do let us know.

Thank you for your support

Mrs E Smith

This is available as an online form <https://forms.office.com/r/Eq4c2zDLuc>

Name:

Class:

Why would you like to be selected for our school's eco-committee?

Please share two ideas you have for making our school or our school's community more eco-friendly.

- 1.
- 2.

Please feel free to practise saying these at home with your child so they are happy and confident in talking to their class about their ideas. We can't wait to hear them!

