



## Down Ampney Eco Council Update



Last year, the Eco Council worked hard to gain the Eco Schools Bronze Award, Silver Award and the prestigious Green Flag award, which we proudly display in our playground. These awards were to recognise our efforts to care for our school and wider environment. Some of the work we did last year, included The Great British Litter Pick, changing over our plastic milk bottles to reusable glass bottles and

reusable cups and we undertook an energy audit to reduce the amount of energy the school uses, saving £307 in 7 weeks by ensuring we did not waste energy! Children also learnt how to read the electricity meter and we could see how much we used every month. We set up a recycling scheme with the local council after the car park bins were removed so we can now recycle all of our plastic, paper, cans and card waste. We also planted our annual Bulb4kids delivery of donated bulbs to increase the biodiversity within our school grounds. We started a food composting system and now compost all of our fruit and vegetable waste!

This year, we are working to renew our Green Flag award and chose 3 Eco Topics to focus on at the start of the year.

### Biodiversity



One of our projects this year has been to increase the biodiversity in our school grounds. We have been lucky enough to have had the Woodland Trust donate trees for our new Forest School area and school field with one delivery arriving last November and the next delivery of 30 trees arriving this Winter! We built an outdoor classroom with help from Cotswold Forest School, who also helped us reweave our willow dome. The children have planted hundreds of bulbs donated by Bulbs4Kids and have been keen to plant a wildflower meadow which we aim to plant this Autumn. We had 5 children win the Fresh Air Sculpture exhibition competition, designing posters on the importance of wildflower meadows.



We also planted trees for our leaving Year 6s as well as taking part in the Queen's Green Canopy, Plant a Tree for the Jubilee campaign! Our PTA have been kind enough to fund the plaque.

### School Grounds

Improving our school grounds for children and adults has been a huge focus this year. Parents, carers and staff did an amazing clear up of our outdoor spaces at the start of the year, totally transforming the Early Years outdoor classroom with new bark and new mud kitchen equipment. Local companies also donated equipment. Parents and carers invested time and energy sanding down our Forest School benches and even making new ones from reclaimed wood. Classrooms have indoor plants to improve our indoor spaces and we have even hatched butterflies in Class 1.



### Waste

We continue to strive to improve our recycling and have now set up a dedicated recycling point in our annexe. We take part in the "Big Battery Hunt", and you can recycle your used batteries in our porch area. We have also raised £78.75 by recycling printer cartridges, which you can also drop off at school. We have made a pledge to only use recycled materials in Art and DT and we do not use single use plastics. We are proud to announce that we are now a glitter free school in our bid to reduce the amount of microplastics in the oceans.



### Community Compost Bin – Get Involved!

We would like to invite our village community to become part of our school composting project and we have set up one of our new council donated compost bins by the school fence up by the shop. We would love it if you would add your own **vegetable peelings, fruit waste, teabags, plant prunings and grass cuttings, as well as torn up cardboard egg boxes, scrunched up paper and fallen leaves**. We will use the wonderful compost created to continue to plant in our school grounds and will be able to offer bags of compost soil to our villagers next year!



If you have any other suggestions as to how the school and community could work together to become more eco aware, please pop them into our eco council suggestion box in the porch! Have a happy and sustainable summer! **The Eco Council**