



# Eco – Committee News!



## March 2023

For this edition of Eco-Committee News we would like to share with you the topics and actions we are working on this year. We have carried out our annual environmental review and identified three areas that we could improve on – **Litter** (again!), **Marine** and **Global Development**.

In order to make a difference to these three topics, we need to take action in various ways. We meet every fortnight and have a collection of actions we will carry out this year – some have already happened and some are yet to come. We have two exciting events coming up right now – both of which we would love for you to help us with. Read on to find out more and thank you for your support.

### Three Topics for 2023!

#### Global Citizenship

**“ Taking an active role in your community and making our planet more peaceful, sustainable and fair ” Eco Schools website.**

As an action for this, we have been learning, through the CAFOD Step up to the Plate campaign, about the global food system – the way we grow and share food around the world – how it is broken and what can be done to change it. We are also researching how the products we use at school have an impact on the people in the countries where they are made. We are doing this to help us make positive choices about what we buy. We would also like to 'twin' with another school somewhere else in the world. We are all global citizens!



#### Marine

**“Protecting and conserving water-based ecosystems” Eco Schools website.**

One of our topics this year is 'marine'. We would like to raise awareness of single use plastic so we might have a challenge for you all during this year's 'Health Week'. We will also have a stall during Health Week where you can play games to help us fundraise for a marine charity. We would also like it if the school had a 'glitter use' policy to help reduce microplastic in the ocean.

You may have seen some cheeky puffins on David Attenborough's new series 'Wild Isles'. We were sad to learn that puffins and other seabirds are globally threatened with extinction so we have also sent an email to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, via the RSPB website, supporting a ban on industrial sandeel fishing. If this were to happen, puffins could have enough food to feed their chicks and this would help the suffering populations.

**Save our  
seabirds!**





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## Litter

We are already very active against litter in our school and we are all very aware of the problem with litter in the wider environment. We have a weekly litter pick carried out at lunchtimes by us, the Eco Reps, and we are taking part again in the Great British Spring Clean this Friday. The campaign takes place between **17<sup>th</sup> March - 2<sup>nd</sup> April**.

### Loan a litter picker – take part at home

If you and your family would like to take part at home next week, visit the Keep Britain Tidy website to pledge a bag or more of litter and you can **loan a litter picker from us**. We have a limited number but come to the office and Ms Gardner will have a signing sheet for you and a litter picker to borrow.

Please take photos of you taking part and send them to [SLT@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:SLT@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk). We will display them on our school 'eco board' and tell the Green Flag award assessors!

Litter pickers  
available from  
the school  
office!



Join in at home  
next week!

## Earth Hour

**This Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 8.30pm**

'The biggest hour on Earth'

All teachers will have set homework encouraging you to take part in Earth Hour this weekend. At the moment, over 85,276 people from 160 countries and territories have pledged to take part. Let us know you have taken part. We can then estimate the impact we have by calculating how much electricity we have saved as a school community.

No lights? No problem! Here are some ways you can spend your hour:

- go for a walk
- stargaze
- read a book
- catch up on sleep
- do some art
- play a board game
- have tea by candle light
- do a puzzle



Your Eco Reps hard  
at work!

