

## Eco review 2019

Overdale Junior School passed its second Green Flag Assessment in November and we'd like to share with you some of the activities we have been doing in school which allowed this to happen. If you feel excited about what is going on as you are reading this, please do get in touch as we would love to work with you on future projects.



**Energy:** As a school, we have been trying to reduce our energy consumption and we were really excited to have new double glazing fitted over the summer. EcOverdale regularly monitor our energy use and we are looking to see how much energy and money we have saved on our gas. We also monitor the amount of electricity being used and hold energy assessment weeks where we visit classrooms to check that lights and whiteboards are turned off. The energy monitors within each class are encouraged to keep their class on track. EcOverdale love checking on our solar panels and seeing how much electricity they have created each month.

**Litter:** There is a weekly litter picking club to which anyone can attend and help to keep our school litter free! EcOverdale has monitored the type of litter which has been collected and has encouraged those children having packed lunched and those buying snacks from Snack-a-licious to put their rubbish in the bin. We are attending a city wide celebration in March as part of the Litter-less campaign run by Keep Britain Tidy.

**Recycling:** Each classroom has a variety of ways to recycle their waste – a green bin for paper, plastic and card; an old sweet tub for old pens and pencils; a scrap paper drawer for paper with 1 side clean; and a spare lid pot to stop pens drying out. We sent over 18Kg of old pens to be recycled with the Terracycle scheme last year, and we are well on the way to collecting more this year with the introduction of the collection box in the Browett Entrance for parents and families to drop off their old pens. We have a small team who collect kitchen waste and transfer it to the school compost bins. The school has an annual book swap where children can recycle their old books and we have recently joined a scheme to help us recycle crisp packets.

**Water:** EcOverdale annually measure the quantity of water in the push tap sinks in the pupils' toilets. This data is fed to our premises officer who makes the required adjustments.

**Transport:** We have been privileged to work with Sustrans and the Healthy Air Education Officer to promote sustainable transport to school – Two Wheeler Tuesday encourages children to cycle or scoot to school with the added bonus of termly Bike Breakfasts and Peddle 4 Prizes! We have welcomed Doctor Bike who has

helped to make our bikes roadworthy. We have benefitted from cycle training with our year 4 and 5s and are looking at developing a “safer routes to school map” for parents, to encourage more children to travel sustainably. We are also looking to increase the amount of cycle storage. EcOverdale have used a variety of monitors to assess our air quality and will be conducting an anti-idling campaign in the near future.

**Healthy Living:** Overdale Juniors has benefitted wonderfully from Mrs Coopers drive for healthy diets – we have achieved our Silver Food for Life award - the first school in the city! The pupils have regular food routes lessons and use the breaktime Snack-a-licious stall to eat healthy snacks. As a school we are pushing forward for our gold award.

**Biodiversity:** Our school enjoys a wide variety of wildlife within our grounds including: badgers, foxes, stone loach fish, squirrels, a lizard and a wonderful array of bird life. These have been monitored and recorded with the help of a wildlife camera, as part of Forest School lesson and through the Year 6 pupils engaging with the John Muir award.

**School Grounds:** We continue to develop and use the school grounds to inspire and develop our children’s understanding of the world around them. The children engage in outdoor lessons including PE, Science, English and Maths as well as Forest School lessons. As part of our sensory garden, the children all contributed to a poignant Remembrance Path and a weekly gardening club is run to maintain and develop the school’s growing areas.

**Global Perspective:** The children learn about the environment around the world as they study their sustainability lessons and make links within their creative curriculum. We have celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight for the last couple of years, holding a cake competition last year and we are planning a rice challenge this coming year.

As well as developing links with DeMontfort University in supporting their Outdoor Learning and Forest School module, we are looking to move forward in all areas of our Environmental care. If you would like to join in with us, either in our weekly EcOverdale club, gardening club, Forest School lessons or in setting up and running an Eco Project that is close to your heart, please do let us know.

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