

Newsletter Summer 2020



Hello and thanks for reading this half term's Eco-Schools newsletter. How the world has changed so dramatically since our last newsletter, we sincerely hope you are all keeping well and adjusting to the new way of life and different routines.

With this being the start of what should be the summer term, it's a real shame that so many fantastic Eco-Schools Action Plans have had to be put on hold during what is normally a busy and productive term for Eco-Schools across Wales.



School buildings might be closed but we would still love for your pupils to get involved in environmental activities while they are at home. To help give you some ideas, we are creating 'Eco-Schools at Home' resources and sharing via social media, so keep an eye out! As always, we would love to hear from you. Tweet us [@EcoSchoolsWales](https://twitter.com/EcoSchoolsWales) to share your #EcoSchoolsAtHome activities!

Members of the Keep Wales Tidy education team are still available to provide you with support through email, phone or even Skype. Therefore, don't hesitate to get in touch at eco-schools@keepwalestidy.cymru if you have some time to get yourself up to speed on the Eco-Schools process, need some advice, have any questions or queries. You can also find useful information on the Eco-Schools section of the Keep Wales Tidy website.

Eco-Schools at Home



We are really keen that schools and pupils are able to continue with their fantastic eco efforts safely at home at this time. We've therefore been busy planning activities that can be completed at home relating to the Eco-Schools topics.

Those of you on Facebook or Twitter may well have spotted our #EcoSchoolsathome posts, encouraging pupils to investigate or take action on a different theme each week. Take a look on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) for the latest challenges relating to our '[Beautiful Butterflies](#)' and '[Waste minimisation](#).'

While pupils continue to learn from home we will be posting a new challenge every Monday at 10am. Please look out for them and share them with your school community. We are hopeful that by keeping the conversation going we can continue to have a positive impact on our environment. Please let us know what you do using the #Ecoschoolsathome.

In addition to the weekly challenges we have been compiling a series of Eco-Schools at Home documents which encourages households to follow the Eco-Schools process at home. There are resources now available here <https://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/eco-schools-at-home>

Is your Eco-Schools Green Flag due for renewal this term?



If you can, please do send in your application and related documents online to be assessed, even if you have not been able to complete all the actions you had planned. Your Education Officer can then arrange to visit your school when we are able.

If you don't think you will be able to submit, please let us know and we will keep your Award valid until such time as schools are running normally. We will contact you again then to reassess your application deadline.

Theme of the Half Term: Pupil Voice



At the beginning of March, Eco-Schools staff were involved in delivering a workshop at a conference run by Welsh Government to bring young people together to respond to the Climate Emergency and feed into the next Wales low carbon plan. Events were held both at Cardiff Bay and Wrexham involving a total of 150 learners from secondary schools across Wales. The conference utilised DooPoll throughout the day to gain opinions, ideas and an understanding of the knowledge of young people attending. Our workshop then looked in more depth at what Global Warming is (and how to explain it in an easy and interactive way to other pupils), how we personally impact on the climate and things that we can do to reduce our personal footprint.





Case Study: Effective Pupil Voice

There are many different ways of establishing a system to enable effective pupil voice and there never seems to be a 'one size fits all' approach that suits every school's needs. Lack of time for meetings is often an issue for Eco-Schools coordinators, having to squeeze in a meeting during assembly, lunch or PPA time.



Gilwern Primary School near Abergavenny is one of a number of schools that have established a 'Pupil Parliament' system that puts pupil voice at the centre of school life. Every child in the school is on a pupil voice group which they have put themselves forward for. These include the Eco-Committee, Community Connections, Criw Cymreig, School Council, Gilwern Association of Pupils (GAP) and several others. In Gilwern the committees and their designated lead member of staff all meet once a half term for planning, although other activities take place between meetings. As there is obvious cross over, all committees feed back after their meetings in a whole school assembly so that they can share what they have been planning. As a result of moving to this system, there are a lot more pupil-led events during the year and the range of issues covered and events planned has broadened. Eco issues are covered by many of the pupil groups so the impact is increasing and the involvement of more pupils is also increasing.

Eco-Schools International



We may all be staying at home but that doesn't stop us from taking a virtual World Tour of the 67 countries in which Eco-Schools operates!

Take a look at the international Eco-Schools website to find out if Eco-Schools exists in a country that you have studied in school, a place you have travelled to or maybe somewhere you would like to visit! The list of national operators can be found here <https://www.ecoschools.global/national-offices>.

Diary Dates

- 05/06/20 - [World Environment Day](#)
- 08/06/20 - [World Oceans Day](#)
- 06/06/20 – 14/06/20 - [National Bike Week](#)
- 17/07/20 – 09/08/20 - [Big Butterfly Count](#)

Mae'r rhaglen Eco-Sgolion yn annog disgyblion i ymgysylltu â materion amgylcheddol a datblygiad cynaliadwy. Datblygwyd y cynllun gan y Sefydliad Addysg Amgylcheddol (FEE), ac yng Nghymru mae Cadwch Gymru'n Daclus yn rhedeg y cynllun.

Os ydych chi wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn trwy gamgymeriad neu os ydych eisiau dad-danysgrifio o'n cylchlythyr, cysylltwch â'ch Cydlynnydd Eco-Sgolion neu ewch i **keepwalestidy.cymru am** ragor o wybodaeth

The Eco-Schools Programme encourages pupils to engage with environmental and sustainable development issues. The scheme was developed by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), and in Wales it is managed by Keep Wales Tidy.

If you have received this email by mistake or want to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please contact your Eco-Schools Coordinator or visit **keepwalestidy.cymru** for further information

Eco-Schools



Eco-Sgolion



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