



KEEP NORTHERN IRELAND BEAUTIFUL



ECO-SCHOOLS

ECO-SCHOOLS NEWS

May 2016

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Alpha Newspapers Eco-Schools Colouring Competition Winners.

Eco-Schools were delighted to work with the Alpha Newspaper group in April to run a colouring competition. The Competition appeared in the Tyrone Courier, Ballymena Guardian, Antrim Guardian, Newry Democrat, Strabane Weekly Need, Ulster Gazette, County Down Outlook, Coleraine Chronicle, Ballycastle Chronicle, Ballymoney Chronicle, Northern Constitution and Tyrone Constitution.

The competition provided a blank school template which pupils were asked to embellish with eco friendly ideas and then colour in. Three pupils won their schools a class trip to Northern Ireland attractions with the transport kindly supplied by Translink. Runners up also won litter bins for their schools courtesy of Heyn Environmental.

We were delighted that there was a great interest in the competition and hundreds of super, artistic entries were received making judging a hard task. Well done and thank-you to all who entered and shared their fantastic eco ideas.

The first place winners from each region, with excellent entries, were:

- Emily Lavery - St. Patrick's Primary, Annaghmore.
- Rhianna Gillespie - Lisnadiill Primary, Armagh.
- Libby Ellis - Creavey Primary, Antrim.



A winning entry from Emily Lavery, St Patrick's Primary, Annaghmore

Victoria Martin, Kingsmills Primary, Armagh; Shona McAteer, Carrick Primary, Newry; Aoife O'Kane, Crossroads Primary, Kilrea.

#GetonboardNI Bus and Train Week, 6 – 12 June

A party that's BUSTing with fun and enterTRAINment!

It's time to get involved in Translink's first ever Bus + Train Week, 6-12 June 2016 and celebrate all the benefits of travelling by public transport.

Our bus and rail network is key to the prosperity of Northern Ireland today and in years to come, building a cleaner, greener, safer and more mobile society for everyone. So, it's important young people today embrace the benefits of public transport to build a better future.



Our Eco-Schools partner Translink would love your help to make Bus + Train Week a big success.

There's lots of ways your school can get involved:

Promote the event to pupils, teachers and parents encouraging them to try public transport at least once from 6 – 12 June 2016.

Tweet photos of everyone using bus or train services to @Translink_NI #GetonboardNI and Translink will share with their 80,000+ social media followers.

Click for [more great ideas here.](#)

Whatever you do to celebrate Bus + Train Week, Translink wants to hear from you! Click - www.translink.co.uk/busandtrainweek/ for full details. There's no better time to make the bus and train your first choice for travel.

WIN WIN WIN!

Every school that sends Translink evidence of their Bus + Train Week activities and celebrations will also be entered into a prize draw to win the use of a coach for a class trip anywhere in Northern Ireland (max 50 people). Deadline for entries Monday 13 June 2016. [School trip must be taken before the end of June 2017]

Top 10 Reasons to use Public Transport

1. Reduce Stress
2. Help the climate
3. Avoid traffic
4. Improve your health
5. Free WiFi
6. Convenience
7. Increased Road Safety
8. Improve your punctuality
9. Catch some zzzzzzzs
10. Get social after work

Hedgehog Campaign -

Eco-Schools is asking all schools to help their native hedgehogs. In the 1950's it was estimated there were 36.5 million hedgehogs in Britain. It seems likely that there are now fewer than 1 million hedgehogs left.

Hedgehogs travel around one mile every night through our parks and gardens in their quest to find enough food and a mate. If you have an enclosed garden you might be getting in the way of their plans.

We now know that one of the main reasons why hedgehogs are declining in Britain is because our fences and walls are becoming more and more secure, reducing the amount of land available to them.

We can make their life a little easier by removing the barriers within our control – for example, by making holes in or under our garden fences and walls for them to pass through. The gap need only be 13x13cm or 5 inches square and so will be too small for most pets.

You could:

- Remove a brick from the bottom of the wall
- Cut a small hole in your fence if there are no gaps
- Dig a channel underneath your wall, fence or gate

Visit www.hedgehogstreet.org for more ideas.

If you have seen any hedgehogs in your school grounds or have top tips you would like to share please contact ruth.vanry@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org and have a look at our Hedgehog Campaign on our [website](#).



www.rspb.org.uk

School News:

Eco-Schools scoop top prizes at Garden Show Ireland.

Congratulations to all the Eco-Schools who scooped prizes at Garden Show Ireland held at Antrim Castle Gardens in May. Schools did well in the edible container gardens category and Ballycraigy Primary, Ambassador Eco-School for School Grounds, won the Eppie Schierbeek Cup for their garden display. [Read more ...](#)



Ballycraigy Primary win the Eppie Schierbeek Cup pictured with Monty Don above left.

Council News:

Belfast City Council Eco-Schools event

Belfast City Council are planning a celebration event for the Wheelie Big Challenge recycling competition and Green Flags. The event is to be held in City Hall's Great Hall on the 10th of June. Schools will be invited to present their final entries into the Wheelie Big competition and enjoy entertainment from Eco-Mantella and Doodlebugs while celebrating eco success.



Derry City and Strabane - Wood Recycling Competition Winners

Primary school winners of the Wood Recycling competition, organised as part of Derry City and Strabane District Council's Year of Science and Innovation, were presented with their prizes on 22nd April. The pupils were invited to design a recycled wood installation for their school garden/playground and be in with a chance of having it commissioned by 4rs Recycling and installed in their school. Schools were invited to choose from a number of categories incorporating the practice of STEM subjects including art installation, garden furniture, or nature and play themes. The winners were Sion Mills Primary, Strabane; St. Paul's Primary, Derry; and Chapel Road Primary, Derry.



Sion Mills Primary

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Celebrate NI Year of Food and Drink.

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council are celebrating the NI Year of Food and Drink with 'grow your own' themed events at markets in the council area over June. You are invited to come along and learn about composting and planting your own edible feast. Events will be happening at the following venues:

Lurgan Market – Thurs 23-June

The Shambles Market Armagh – Fri 24-June

Portadown Indoor Market – Sat 25-June

To take part or learn more information contact David.Phillips@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk



Bee Curious - Saturday 11th June: 11am – 4pm

The Bee Curious event at Lough Neagh Discovery Centre celebrates the value of pollinators and their significance to local food producers and the wider countryside. This free family day out offers an exciting insight into the magical world of bees through a live demonstration hive where you can see bees working at first hand, learn all about bee keeping and check out the equipment used, how to make your garden friendly for these pollinators as well as having the opportunity to buy wax products including delicious honey and luxurious cosmetics!



Organised by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, this family friendly event will take place on Saturday 11th June from 11am to 4pm. Guided walks on the day must be booked.

Visit www.facebook.com/oxfordislandnaturereserve to find out more or contact the Discovery Centre on 028 3831 1673.



Trócaire

Working for a just world.

Poetry Competition

A big thank-you to all schools who submitted poetry entries into the Trócaire poetry competition. There were many amazing poems submitted, looking at the serious issue of migration caused by climate change, and the resulting conflict surrounding it.

Congratulations to these category 11-15 years pupils from Northern Ireland who were recognised for their poems:

- 3rd prize to David Merron in Lagan College, Castle-reagh, for 'Difference' (right) .
- Highly commended to Anna McGivern in Dominican College, Belfast, for 'Forced to Flee'.

Don't forget to check out the brilliant resources on this topic and many more Global Perspective subjects on the Trócaire [website](#).



Difference

You complain about the weather,
My country drowns every year.
You're sad one flower has died,
My entire crop is gone in one day.

You cheer over sunny weather,
My land cries as it is burnt.
Your jobs pay well.
I have no job.

You hear of one death,
I hear of hundreds.
You start your car,
I start to walk.

You get stuck in traffic,
I get stuck at the border.
Your job is five minutes away,
My safety is far more.

Your country pollutes,
As my country watches on.
As my country is dying,
Your country lives on.

You get to stay while I've got to go,
This is my Exodus, so now you know.

David Merron, Lagan College- aged 14.

International Eco-Schools News: Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE).



We had many fantastic entries into the YRE completion this year. Thank-you to all the schools who submitted entries. We were delighted to forward the video entry from Parkview School, in Lisburn, on to the International Competition to be judged on the 6th June. More information on the YRE competition can be found [here](#).

Kenyan member, KOEE, is working to reduce the heat in Africa.

Joto Afrika, meaning 'Africa is feeling the heat' in Swahili, is a series of briefing and online resources reporting on climate change and climate adaptation in sub-Saharan Africa. It draws lessons, experiences and practical information from across several sub-Saharan African countries.

St. Mary's Girls' Primary School in Machakos County, managed to reduce the amount of fire-wood used per term after an environmental audit conducted by the students. More resource efficiency has led to an improvement of the school feeding programme, raising the number of girls enrolled from 50 to 200. [Read more ...](#)

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful news:

Eco-Schools in Northern Ireland is operated by the environmental charity Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. Here is the latest news from other areas of our organisation:

Big Spring Clean results - reminder

Thanks everyone for making the Big Spring Clean a great event again this year. We want to be able to report on all the wonderful actions you have taken to clean up Northern Ireland over the last couple of months. So please send us your results. You can log them on the Live Here Love Here [website](#) or you can send them [here](#).

Live Here Love Here Small Grants

The Live Here Love Here small grants scheme will be announced soon. This is a great opportunity to receive some funding to clean-up your area and show that you love where you live. Keep an eye on the Live Here Love Here [website](#) for more information.



Don't forget you can [pledge](#) your support to the Live Here Love Here campaign and receive updates about actions being taken in your community.

Other News:

A set of [guidelines](#) accompanying the All Ireland Pollinator Plan have been released. This booklet that explains **24 actions** local communities can take to help pollinators. It is aimed primarily Community Associations and Colleges.

For Schools interested in helping pollinators there is the more pupil friendly Junior Pollinator Plan. If you are a pollinator, finding enough food is the biggest challenge you have to face. Declines in wildflowers are subjecting our pollinators to starvation. Fertiliser application has resulted in increased crop yields, but in strong declines in wild flowers in managed field and in adjacent semi-natural habitats. Our tendency to tidy up the landscape rather than allowing wildflowers to grow along roadsides, field margins, and in parks, gardens and school grounds is also playing a big part in fewer of these resources being available.

Download a copy of the [Junior Pollinator Plan](#) a great resource for teaching on the topic and lots of ideas on how to help bees.

Free Trees!

Woodland Trust are giving away free packs of native trees to schools and community groups.

Groups can now choose between packs of 30, 105 or 420 saplings, depending on how much space they have to plant. There are different mixes of tree species to choose from too, including packs themed for autumn colour, wood fuel and wildlife.

Planting trees is the perfect way to help children and young people connect with and learn about nature. To find out more, head to www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/freetrees.

Green Flags this month.

Congratulations to all the schools who have achieved their Green Flag award in the last month. We are continually amazed at the knowledge and enthusiasm of all the pupils and staff at our Green Flag schools and they are to be congratulated on their fantastic achievement.

Congratulations this month go to:

- Londonderry Primary, Newtownards
- St Columba's College, Portaferry
- Crossroads Primary, Coleraine
- Fleming Fulton School, Belfast
- St Mary's Primary, Draperstown
- Culnady Primary, Maghera
- St Malachy's Nursery, Newry
- Bessbrook Primary, Newry
- Knockbreda Primary, Belfast
- St Patrick's Primary, Enniskillen
- Kindertee Community Playgroup, Enniskillen
- Hezlett Primary, Coleraine
- Oakwood Integrated Primary, Belfast
- Kesh Primary, Enniskillen
- St. Martin's Primary, Enniskillen
- Mercy Primary, Belfast
- Victoria Primary, Newtownards
- Tullygally Primary, Craigavon
- Castle Gardens Primary, Newtownards
- St Patrick's Primary, Aughagallon
- Ravenscroft Nursery, Belfast
- Killyman Primary, Dungannon
- Holy Family Primary, Magherafelt
- St Patrick's Primary, Armagh
- D H Christie Memorial Primary, Coleraine
- Downpatrick Nursery, Downpatrick
- St Olcan's Primary, Arroy
- St Malachy's Primary, Armagh
- St Malachy's Primary, Newry
- St Jarlath's Primary, Dungannon
- Trinity Nursery, Bangor
- St Peter's Primary, Cookstown
- Carrick Primary, Warrenpoint
- Blessed Patrick O'Loughran Primary, Dungannon
- St Kieran's Primary, Belfast
- St Mary's Primary, Portglenone
- Round Tower Integrated Primary, Antrim
- Linn Primary, Larne
- St Macnissi's Primary, Larne
- Mill Strand Integrated Primary, Portrush
- Tattygar Primary, Enniskillen
- Holy Trinity Primary, Enniskillen
- Holywood Primary, Holywood
- St Bernard's Primary, Glengormley



Londonderry Primary, Newtownards.



Kindertee Community Playgroup, Enniskillen



Bessbrook Primary, Newry



Crossroads Primary, Coleraine



St Mary's Primary, Portglenone



Fleming Fulton School, Belfast

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Don't stop here! Visit our Eco-Schools Northern Ireland [website](#) for more news, project ideas, programme guidance, case studies, delivery partner information, and much more.