

# Eco News

## Sustainability at Hawkhurst CofE Primary School Spring 2026



Our Eco Champions are Zara, Elliot and Benji from Yr6, Andrew and Maverick from Yr5, Amelia and Dolly from Yr4, Oscar and Holly from Yr3, Sophia and Alexi from Yr2 and Willow and Archie C from Yr1.

### Our Aims:

**Promote Sustainability** – Encourage eco-friendly practices such as recycling, reducing waste, and conserving energy within the school and local community.

**Raise Awareness** – Educate students and staff about climate change, its impact, and practical ways to reduce their carbon footprint.

**Taking Action** – Lead initiatives and campaigns that contribute to a greener environment, such as tree planting, litter-picking, and energy-saving projects.

We have elected Eco Champions to lead sustainability initiatives and promote eco-friendly practices. Guided by Mrs. Elmes these students will take responsibility for raising awareness about climate change and encouraging their peers to adopt greener habits. They will be organising events, recycling programmes, and energy-saving campaigns to make a positive impact on the school and local community. Through their efforts, the Eco Champions hope to inspire others to take action and contribute to a healthier planet.

## **We have begun by turning off the lights?**

Our quarterly bills for electricity run at around £2500 and our Eco Champions thought that was a lot. During our first meeting the children have decided to see if we can get that bill down. They made posters to put in each classroom and around the school near light switches to ask staff to turn off the lights and their computers when they are not in use. It has already had a positive impact around the school in developing good habits. The staff are turning their classroom and cupboard lights off when the rooms are not in use and they have reduced the time their computers and boards are on standby. The hall is also in darkness when not in use. Eco Champions are keeping an eye and have handed out several polite reminders.

## **We are recycling!**

We have been quite good at recycling but again our Eco Champions and other children who want to join in are on the case. We have had regular reminders in assembly to ensure the rubbish is put in the correct bins and volunteers have been litter picking in the playground to maintain a clean environment. We are all making sure that the rubbish from the classrooms is going into the correct bins too.

We are now looking at the idea of making staff notebooks from the larger pieces of recycled paper so it is put to good use before finally being collected by the recycling truck from Viridor.

Have you made full use of your scrap paper before you throw it away? This includes wrapping paper and gift bags. Could you use them more than once?

## **The Eco Champions made notebooks for the staff**



Last week the Eco Champions made notebooks from the class recycling boxes. We had decided that we are going to have a push to remind people how recycling will help save the planet. We wanted to show people that you can use recycled paper as notebooks and they are still useful and worthwhile. The team divided up the jobs and worked well together making over 50 notebooks all together. They personalised the notebooks by addressing them to each member of staff. The children were very pleased to deliver them to their class teacher and TA. We hope you find them useful.



Recycling helps keep our environment clean and tidy, saves energy, helps reduce waste, helps save the planets resources.

Do you recycle regularly? Do you know what you can recycle?

				
<p><b>cartons</b></p>	<p><b>mixed glass bottles &amp; jars</b></p>	<p><b>food tins &amp; drink cans</b></p>	<p><b>mixed paper &amp; card</b></p>	<p><b>plastic packaging</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink cartons (e.g. juice, milk)</li> <li>• Food cartons (e.g. soup)</li> </ul> <p>Please empty and rinse items first</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bottles of any colour</li> <li>• Jars with lids removed</li> <li>• Non-food glass bottles with lids removed (e.g. perfume, aftershave)</li> </ul> <p>Please empty and rinse items first</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink cans</li> <li>• Food tins</li> <li>• Empty aerosols (remove plastic caps)</li> <li>• Jar lids</li> <li>• Clean foil and foil trays (ut not if you live in Enfield)</li> </ul> <p>Please empty and rinse items first</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newspapers, magazines and catalogues</li> <li>• Leaflets and flyers</li> <li>• Envelopes (including with a window)</li> <li>• Cardboard</li> <li>• Greetings cards without glitter</li> <li>• Other household paper e.g. computer paper and letters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drinks bottles</li> <li>• Cosmetics bottles (e.g. shampoo, shower gel)</li> <li>• Standard cleaning product bottles (e.g. washing up liquid)</li> <li>• Pots, tubs, trays and punnets</li> </ul> <p>Please empty and rinse items first</p>

## Battery Recycling

We would like to remind you about the battery recycling. We have not got our box in main reception anymore for collecting used batteries but Tesco have a box near the exit. Instead of throwing them away, please take them to Tesco and drop them in the box. Recycling helps prevent pollution and conserves valuable materials, making a real difference for our planet. Join us in making our community greener—every small action counts!



## Recycling clothes

Did you know that at the end of the school car park there is a clothes collection bin? Now that the weather is getting warmer and you are changing your wardrobe are there any clothes you would like to donate by using our collection point? As well as recycling the clothes you will be helping the school raise money as we get a payment each time they come and empty the bin.



## Food waste



At school we are trying really hard to improve our recycling of food waste. We have new food recycling bins in the hall for lunchtime and in the playground for food waste. We also have new food caddies in each classroom for snack waste too. How well are you recycling your food waste at home? Do you know what happens to it when it is taken away? How can you use food waste at home? At school we collect our snack waste and put it on our compost pile ready for gardening club to use. In next term's edition of "Eco News" we will explain what happens to food waste taken away by the refuse lorry.