

## Eco-Council Update Autumn 2024

This term the Eco-Council had to complete an environmental survey across the whole school and then voted on which three main topics they wanted to focus on. The main areas that were chosen were- **biodiversity, school grounds and energy.**

### BIODIVERSITY AND SCHOOL GROUNDS.



This term we became a 'Friend of the Honey Bee' and to further improve our school grounds and provide early nectar and pollen for the bees emerging from hibernation we have planted 600 bulbs donated by Bulbs4Kids. The Deputy Mayor of Basildon, Councillor Victoria Joseph helped Year 4 plant some narcissus, muscari and crocus by our treehouse at the front of the school.



We have used our competition money from the **Primary Awards for Green Education in Schools** to buy hedgehog house and water bowl for the pond area along with two squirrel proof bird feeders and a bird bath. Some pupils have also been making leaf piles for our resident hedgehogs to keep them safe and warm during the winter months.



### ENERGY.

Energy checks have been a focus throughout the second half of the term as the colder months approach. We have been focussing on maintaining heat within the school and saving electricity.

As part of 'Cutting Carbon' month in November we have all been busy learning about greenhouse gases and global warming. Key stage 1 read a story about two penguins who found themselves stuck on an iceberg that was slowly in melting from the sun's rays whilst the Key Stage Two children each made climate friendly pledges to help planet Earth and inspire others to do the same. The pledges we made into pledgehogs and are now proudly on display in our school corridor.



### **LITTER.**

Between the 14-18<sup>th</sup> October the whole school took part in Big Hog Friendly litter pick, the children learnt about hedgehogs and their decline and dangers of litter for wildlife. We collected 13 ½ bags of litter some of which dated back to the year 2004! We are continuing to do our weekly litter picks on the playground at break and lunch times using our equipment donated by Basildon Council.



### **HEALTHY LIVING.**

An Eco member had kindly grown and potted a spider plant for each class to care for throughout the year- she gave instructions for each class so they can learn about how to care for it.



Our school lunch menu continues to support 'Meat Free Mondays' whereby we offer vegetarian/plant-based options on the menu. Less meat benefits our planet.

### **GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP.**

The whole school took part in 'Black History month' and we contributed to our local foodbank with the help of the Salvation Army. These events helped encourage the children to take an active role in their community and celebrate diversity.

### **WASTE.**



The Eco writing pads have been a great idea to use the scrap paper and material. Our old socks have been turned into sock balls to use as playtimes, the children have really enjoyed using them to make their own ball games.