

Eco-Council Update Spring 2025

During the spring term the Eco-Council have been busy concentrating on our three Eco focus areas- Biodiversity, school grounds and energy and working on a few projects which will be submitted for our Eco application.

BIODIVERSITY AND SCHOOL GROUNDS.



Class planters-We have been fortunate to have FOO donate some money to us to buy a class planter, and each class has now planted some narcissus, muscari and crocus bulbs; the crocus will provide the bees with the early nectar when they emerge from hibernation.

Meadowcroft competition entry- We have won an entry into the 'Schools in Bloom 2025' competition run by Meadowcroft Garden centre, our local garden centre.

The plants will be delivered in April, and judging will commence in July before the end of the school year. The judges will be looking out for a well-tended garden and originality. Since we are focussing on improving our biodiversity and will be making a bee corridor- bee corridors are areas of nectar-rich flowering plants that bees and other pollinators travel through, providing them with the nectar they need to fly to their next habitat.

Hedgehog piles- Some very enthusiastic children voluntarily got to work on making some hedgehog piles for our resident hedgehogs. Since our Big Hog litter pick the children are now more aware of the dangers of litter on our local wildlife and have taken a keen interest in the hedgehog and looking after them.



Potatoes- We have managed to get some potatoes to grow from 'Grow Your Own Potatoes.' We had to chit our potatoes ready for planting; they should be ready around June/July which will give us enough time to dig them up before the end of the academic year.



Outdoor Learning- This term has been full of outdoor learning experiences including cooking on the fire pit, mapwork and reading co-ordinates using the school grounds and practising tying knots.

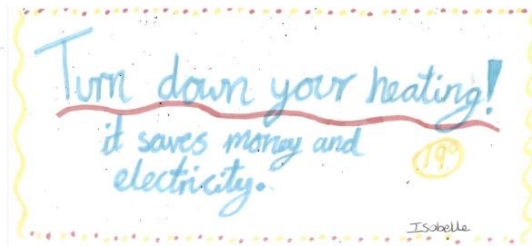


ENERGY.



Energy checks have been a focus throughout the second half of the term as the colder months approach and the Eco Councillors have been checking their classroom radiators, windows and making sure their doors are closed to keep the heat in! We have been focussing on maintaining heat within the school and saving electricity. Our Year 5 Eco councillors joined the Essex Schools Energy surveyor along with Mrs Pinchback to investigate how much energy our electrical appliances were using, they also got to use a thermal imaging camera and an infrared thermometer.

Energy saver week – During energy saver week some of the Eco council members got thinking about what we could do at home to save energy; some Eco council energy saving tips were created and shared in the newsletter and some were put on display in the school corridor.

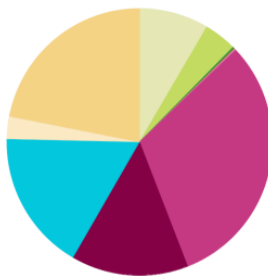


Carbon footprint report- After completing data to calculate Oakfield's carbon footprint we discovered our main contributor to our carbon emissions is **student commutes to school**, we took part in the 'Big Walk and Wheel' between the 24th March and the 4th of April to help reduce our emissions which in turn will result in cleaner air.

Your Carbon Footprint Report

Your schools total carbon footprint is estimated to be: 434.74 tonnes CO₂e* per year

Operational area	Emissions area	t CO ₂ e*	% of footprint
Energy & Utilities	Fuel Usage	36.7	8%
	Electricity Usage	17.1	4%
	Waste Usage	0.5	0%
	Water Usage	0.5	<1%
Transport	Vehicles	0	0%
	School Trips	0.8	<1%
	Student Commutes	135.4	31%
	Staff Commutes	62	14%
Food & Drink	Meals	73.8	17%
Purchases	Spending	11.6	3%
	Uniforms	96.4	22%



*"t CO₂e" or "CO₂e" tonnes means 'tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent'. Under the GHG protocol, 7 greenhouse gases are tracked and summarised as the equivalent amount of Carbon Dioxide that would produce the same warming effect.

LITTER.



Spring Pickers Essex Wildlife trust-In March the whole school participated in a challenge run by Essex Wildlife Trust. We were challenged to pick up 5 pieces of litter a day between the 10th March and the 19th March. Every class worked hard to clean up the school grounds and the five pieces of litter goal was achieved every single day.

Big Hog Friendly Litter Pick- Mrs Pinchback entered Oakfield Primary into the Big Hog Friendly Litter Pick Competition; we came 12th out of 31; this included universities, secondary and primary schools across the UK. We collected 25.5 bags of litter between September 16th and 28th November 2024 with the help of the Wickford Wombles, our local community litter picking group. We even got a special mention on the Hog Friendly Campus blog page for having over 400 volunteers participate in our litter pick! Each year group continues to help make Oakfield a safer and litter-free environment for our prickly friends and other wildlife we have visiting our school grounds by participating in daily litter picks on the playgrounds.

HEALTHY LIVING.

Our school lunch menu continues to support 'Meat Free Mondays' whereby we offer vegetarian/plant-based options on the menu. 17% of our carbon emissions are produced by school lunches so meat-free Mondays not only helps keep us healthy but also helps keep emissions low.

WASTE.



Along with our pen recycling we are now recycling our glue sticks too! Year 6 also used our reception milk cartons to make bird feeders, the tin cans from the kitchen are being used for planting and making bug hotels and we continue to use or re-purposed socks for sock balls at playtime.