

Eco-Council Update Autumn Term.

This year we had so many children interested in the Eco Council that we decided to expand our Eco-Council and create an Eco Council but also a recycling, energy, and litter team. Once these teams were established, we completed the Eco Schools environmental review to see what our schools' strengths and weaknesses were and then we wrote an action plan- the Eco team agreed that the main topic areas they wanted to focus on this year were **healthy living, waste, and biodiversity.**

BIODIVERISTY AND SCHOOL GROUNDS.

BULBS4KIDS- In November some of the Eco Council planted 600 bulbs around the school grounds and in our class planters; we planted tulip, daffodils and muscari bulbs which will make an appearance in the spring.

Hedgehog award- The Eco Council made a start on their 'Hedgehog Friendly Campus' award by doing a hedgehog hazards risk assessment and ensuring our hedgehog houses in the pond area were safe for our prickly residents.



ENERGY.

Our energy team have been completing energy checks this term to ensure we are being energy efficient. They check every classroom, record the results then after analysing the results the 'Best Energy Efficient Classroom' is awarded a certificate in assembly.



We also took part in 'Cut Your Carbon' month during the month of November. Mrs Pinchback and the Eco team calculated the school's carbon footprint then the whole school were sent home with ten challenge to complete at home which were then collated to calculate our carbon emission reduction. The children also took part in activities in their classrooms and made whole class pledges of actions they thought they could do to help reduce their classes carbon footprint.

LITTER.

BIG HOG FRIENDLY LITTER PICK- Mrs Pinchback entered Oakfield Primary into the Big Hog Friendly Litter Pick Competition in September and with the help of the Wickford Wombles, our local community litter picking group, each year group helped make Oakfield a safer and litter-free environment for our prickly friends and other wildlife. **We won the primary category** and won the 'Peculiar Picks' category for finding an antique typewriter! We were awarded with a new 'Hogilo' which we have placed in the wild corner and some hedgehog food.

Winners of the Primary School category:

Oakfield Primary School won this category! Their **team of 426** amazing volunteers collected a total of **37.5 bags** of litter for 2025, which included some unusual finds like an antique typewriter and BBQ grill, a toy figure, 102 balls, cones, a metre ruler stick, a Haribo packet from 2003 and 2007, and a crisp packet from 2006.



Photo credit: Oakfield Primary School

HEALTHY LIVING.

This term all our children participated in National Fitness Day where they took part in various fitness activities to promote physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

WATER.

The recycling team completed a water bottle audit to see how many children brought a reusable bottle to school. Overall, the results were positive as the majority of children did bring water into school in a reusable, refillable bottle.

WASTE.



We have started our pen and glue lid recycling for the new academic year along with recycling our batteries and food waste. The pens and glue lids get sent off to Germany to make new products. The recycling team are responsible for collecting the recycling and packing it ready to be posted.