

Andrew Welch  
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Dear Andrew Welch and Jonathan Pye,

### **Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award Assessment Feedback**

Congratulations to everyone at Small Isles Primary School for achieving an amazing 6th Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award!

I have very much enjoyed reading through your journey. You have worked really hard on your wide-ranging actions to make your school a more environmentally friendly place to be. It has been a particularly difficult time to be doing this work, so I am doubly impressed at your efforts to overcome the challenges imposed by the Covid pandemic. Well done!

Throughout your journey you have demonstrated great adaptability to cope with changing circumstances. Despite your bottle top recycling not going as you hoped, you changed plans and had an amazing beach clean instead. It was a great idea to incorporate fundraising into this activity, especially as you raised so much for your chosen charity.

You have done an amazing job to help protect wildlife in this journey. It is great to hear your bug hotel already has lots of residents. Your boardgame for the RSPB 'Saving Seabirds' project is absolutely brilliant. It is great to raise awareness of invasive species impacting seabird populations. I am pleased to hear you have continued your work with the RSPB to help corncrakes, indeed there is no stopping you now!

Congratulations on your Pocket Garden design competition win. It was my great pleasure to create your Pocket Garden showcase page. I really loved your Niffler and the bee habitats at the back of your design, although there were so many amazing features packed into your garden that it is hard to pick out my favourites. You should be very proud of your creation. It is wonderful to hear that your garden will be centre stage in your school grounds.

Your focus on wellbeing is very timely with the Covid pandemic and it is great to hear of your successes in this topic. Your willow area looks like a wonderful relaxing place to spend time, especially with your multisensory additions. Congratulations on your Rights Respecting Schools Bronze Award. This is a great achievement.

You have worked really hard in this journey to engage both local and global communities in your work. It is great to hear about your work with a local estate to plant trees and help restore habitats for wildlife. Your climate protest is an excellent demonstration of your commitment as an Eco School, and it is brilliant that you had support from parents and local community members. It is great that you share so much of your work on social media and that your work has made it into local and national newspapers, further amplifying your message.

Overall, you have done a fantastic job and are highly deserving of this Green Flag Award.

I think you will have no problem getting started with your next Green Flag journey. You have lots of brilliant ideas and hopefully you can take some actions further that were suspended during this journey, such as your toothpaste recycling. Your plan to visit remote west coast beaches is excellent and demonstrates a clear understanding of where litter comes from. I look forward to hearing all about your successes with this.

For your next journey, I would challenge you to go further with the 5Rs of waste management (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle). You have done great work with reducing litter in your local area in this journey, so keep this up, but also consider what we can do to prevent items from becoming waste in the first place. For example, you could organise a clothes swap at school, particularly for items such as costumes and Christmas jumpers that are not worn very often. Or consider how you can reduce the amount of paper or single use plastics you use in school and at home.

Please note that we have a new format of Action Plan template that allows you to focus on multiple aims for each topic, which may help you to incorporate more of your amazing ideas into your new journey. Please use this template when you start your next journey. You can find the new Action Plan template on our website. I will send the link when I email you a copy of this feedback.

Keep up the great work, and a big congratulations again to Small Isles Primary School from everyone at Eco-Schools Scotland!

As you continue your Green Flag renewal journey, remember that you should plan to log on to the application site and start your new journey right away. After you have elected your new Eco-Committee, completed your Environmental Review, chosen three Topics (one of which must be Litter & Waste) and one UN Sustainable Development Goal, you will then submit your Draft Action Plan for approval before you begin work, ideally within three months of your last award date.

Please make sure that the three Topics you choose cover the same two-year period and that all three Topics are linked to your chosen UN Sustainable Development Goal. Do not forget to include all activities and ideas you have in your Action Plan to make sure they are all captured. With the online system we encourage you to upload as you go, in real time.

Congratulations once again and we wish you every success as you move on to your next application.

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