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Dear Sheila Baillie and Mandy Whorlow,

Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award Assessment Feedback

Congratulations to everyone at Portpatrick Primary School for achieving an amazing 5th 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-19 pandemic. Well done!

You have shown adaptability to cope with Covid-19 restrictions and manage to achieve so much in the last two years. Your Eco targets for home learning were a great way to keep your Eco-Schools work going whilst pupils could not be in school. I loved your idea to paint on red noses, and then your adaptation to purchasing biodegradable ones when face painting was not possible.

Throughout your work, you have shown an ability to involve your whole school in your work and to include Learning for Sustainability in so many areas. Your Eco responsibilities are a great idea to involve all members of your school in Eco-Schools work, whether they are on the Eco-Committee or not. It is great that you recognise pupils committed to this work through your 'Eco Employee of the Month'.

You have shown commitment to reducing litter in your school and local environment through your school and community litter picks. It is wonderful to see you having so much fun during these litter picks as well! You have done some great work on this journey to reduce waste through your Eco-friendly Christmas fair and pen recycling, among others. I am really pleased to

see you using your voices to invoke change through your work to reduce single use items in your school lunches. Your Eco-mascot is brilliant!

Well done on achieving your Bronze and Silver Wild Challenge awards from the RSPB. These are thoroughly deserved for your Biodiversity work. Your bug hotel looks brilliant, and I hope it is already home to lots of mini beasts. Your tree and flower planting will hopefully attract lots more wildlife to your school grounds.

You have shown a real drive for positivity in your Food and the Environment actions. You have made links between growing food, cooking food and the social enjoyment of eating together. I loved that you turned your pumpkin waste into amazing pumpkin pie and that you made your own soup from produce you grew yourselves. Undertaking a survey prior to setting up a fruit tuck shop and using the results of this survey to inform your actions is brilliant, and exactly what we are looking for you to learn as part of Action Planning.

It is great that you are sharing your successes via your blog and local newspaper. This is a good way to forge community links, particularly where you have been limited in having in person activities due to Covid.

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 you started on this journey. Consider using your Big Bug Hunt and RSPB Birdwatch surveys as baselines that you can compare to in subsequent years to see if your Biodiversity actions are having the effect you intend.

I hope you enjoy your One Planet Picnic as part of the jubilee celebrations in June. As well as your amazing ideas for reducing waste for your picnic, you could learn more about low carbon food choices and try to incorporate some of these into your picnic. For example, could you serve your own, school grown produce?

You have done a brilliant job in reducing litter in your school and local area during this journey. For your next journey you could consider surveying the types of litter you are collecting in your litter picks. The survey results can be used to identify the most common types of litter and where they are located. This can help you to identify actions that you could take to reduce the number of items that become waste in the first place. For example, if you find a lot of crisp and sweet wrappers you could increase your efforts to promote packaging free snacks.

Please note that we have a new format of Action Plan template with a slightly different layout to the one you are currently using, which focuses on your aims as the first consideration when planning your actions. 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 Portpatrick 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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