

Eco-Schools Scotland Interim Green Flag Application



Our Green Flag Journey: Hazeldene Family Centre G77 5TN

By: Finlay; Lily; Connal; Amina; Nina; Charlotte; Alasdair; Kyle; Jake; Harry; Anna; Sophia; Marley; Darcey; Max; Harris; Sandy; Thea and Brenda Guarino.

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we will use this address to contact you with the result of this application

Headteacher: Karen Shepherd – ShepherdK1@hazeldene.e-renfrew.sch.uk

Eco-Schools is a pupil-led award, please make sure that this is reflected in your answers and that any photos submitted are clear and represent what you are trying to communicate.

Materials submitted will be used to promote the Eco-Schools programme.

Our Voice

We talked in each of our groups to choose a person from each group to be part of our Eco Committee. Mrs Guarino chatted with us and wrote down our ideas of what Eco was about. She also told us some things about Eco Schools that we did not know already.

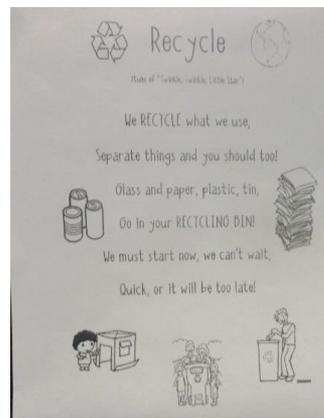
We have Eco Committee meetings and we take turns to write down all the things we have talked about. We talk to the other children and then we share their ideas. This helps us to decide things at the meetings.

We take turns to write the minutes of the meeting. Mums and dads can read them in our folder and on the eco wall.

The children contribute and voice their own opinions about topics we are discussing.

The Eco Committee members report back to their groups with any new information they have learned.

We have chosen an Eco song and all the children have enjoyed learning the words. Our song is called "Recycle"



Our Learning Experience

As well as **Litter**, we have chosen to look at **School Grounds and Food and the Environment**.

Our Sustainable Development Goal is **Responsible Consumption & Production**.

We have chosen these themes because we are doing lots of work to develop our outdoor learning spaces. The children were involved in designing and developing our outdoor space.

We chose **Waste Minimisation** because we want to reduce the amount of plastic and paper that is used in our nursery environment. The children have been learning about things that we can reuse and recycle.

Nina "We need to save paper because men chop down the trees and the birds need to build a new house."

Harris "Put plastic from fruit in recycle bin."

Marley "The world can die if you don't be careful with plastic."

We have now changed our milk order for snack to large bottles instead of our small cartons with plastic straws. We no longer use plastic disposable cups for special events.

We are also using lots of recyclable materials at the art and craft area to make models. The children and their parents are asked to bring in their packaging to re-use instead of putting them in the bin. This has helped the children to learn about different properties of materials.



Our Learning Experience

Litter

We have spoken with our Eco committee and their peers about the importance of dropping litter and the impact it can have on our environment. Here are some of our children's thoughts.

Finlay "I know how to save the planet.....NO LITTERING"

Harry "It would go in the special bin, the recycling bin. My nana and papa took me out close to their house and scooped up some litter and put it in a bag."

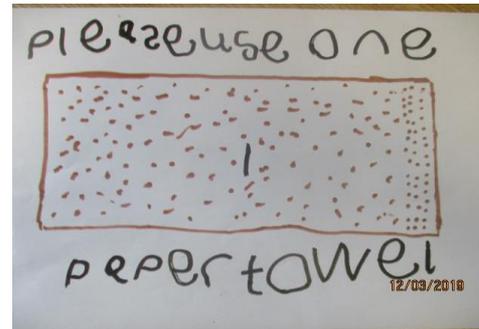
Thea "The teachers tell you about recycling and not dropping litter"

Connal "I picked litter up with a special thing at the old nursery. Litter is not a good thing as it will kill animals".

At Hazeldene Family Centre we actively participate in litter picking around the area. We are now collaborating with a local partnership nursery to work together to clean up our local environment. We will also invite parents and local residents to join us.

The children have made Eco posters advertising ways to help, e.g.

- * Save Water
- * Put Litter In The Bin
- * Pick Up Your Dog Poo
- * Please Use One Paper Towel
- * Switch Off Lights And Save Electricity



Our Learning Experience



Food and the Environment

- Throughout the school year we were involved in a variety of learning experiences.
- We planted a variety of seeds, vegetables, herbs and plants.
- We planted a crop of potatoes, harvested them, sorted and weighed them.
- The children prepared and cut their own food for snack and learned where food comes from.
- Parents of children from different cultures volunteered to introduce their own food to the children which they prepared and shared with them. We celebrated Eid, Chinese New Year, Diwali and Holi.
- The children care for the nursery garden through the Seasons, weeding, sweeping and collecting Autumn leaves.
- We made bird feeders for the garden with recycled materials and observed bird species in the local area.
- Some children visited Asda with the Community Champion to find out about where food comes from.



Our Learning Experience

Recycling Paper

The children have shown a particular interest in learning about paper recycling and what we can turn it into. They made some beautiful recycled paper with plants added into the mix.

One of our staff members has been following the children's interest and they have been involved in a variety of activities. They shredded recycled newspapers and made them into a pulp. The pulp was then put into a brick making press and the children made their own bricks.

The pulp was also moulded around little recycled plastic cups to make a little pot for planting. The children were delighted with the final result. They are going to use these to plant seeds gathered from the fruit at the snack table.

They also made biodegradable pots for seeds and young plants from recycled newspapers. They did this by cutting newspaper into strips and wrapping them round our wooden pot maker.

Following a discussion about our Eco Wall the children decided to use letters cut from the newspapers to make our Eco-Committee heading.

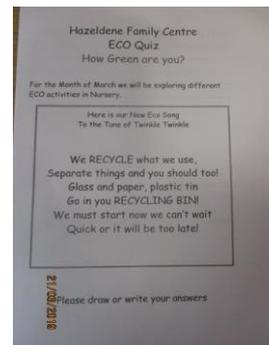
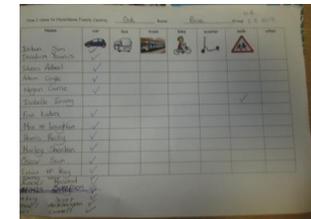
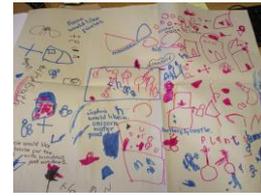


Measuring Progress



We meet at least once a term to look at our Action Plan and see how well we are doing. We decide together what our next steps will be based on how much progress has been made.

- We applied for a grant from the Big Lottery to fund our garden renovation. (See photographs of the landscapers and children's plans.) We received £9,810 to develop the nursery garden.
- We collected litter on our walks and counted our findings and noted them on a chart. We also used chalk to make a pictorial graph outdoors. We were pleased with our results because there was less litter the next time we went out.
- We also went for a walk a few days later and noticed that the amount of dog poo bags had gone down. We thought this was because the residents had read our posters in the lane. **"I can use signs and charts around me for information, helping me plan and make choices and decisions in my daily life."** MNU 0-02c
- We raised funds for a variety of charities as part of **Sustainable Development**
- McMillan Cancer Coffee Morning** – September 2018 – £600
- Save the Children – Christmas Jumper Day** - £97.75
- Mary's Meals "Porridge Day"** 8th November 2018 £315.30
- Rag Bag Recycling Scheme** - 13th March 2019. We collected 97kg which raised £38.80. Over 2 years we have raised £540 from recycling clothes.
- The staff reached out to the wider community with a neighbouring family centre within our cluster by raising funds for **CHAS** on the **Glasgow Kilt Walk 2018**, which raised £3,082.80 The children and their families supported us by sponsoring the event.



Evaluate and Celebrate



- Pupils – “I liked planting the potatoes.” “We helped to put the paper and bottles in the right bins.” “If plastic goes in the water it can hurt the fish ” “I like going to the woods.” “We climb on the trees, play with the leaves and look at the flowers growing.”
- Parents – M. has loved the time spent with the eco committee. She is definitely more environmentally aware as a result of her time spent with the group. She speaks a lot about recycling, fair trade and the meetings she has. I believe the group gives her a real sense of involvement at nursery and has been brilliant for her.
- C. has thoroughly enjoyed learning about looking after her environment. She was particularly interested in caring for fish in the sea by making sure we put plastic in the bin.
- Teacher – The children gained knowledge and a wider understanding of Eco issues including recycling, litter, water and biodiversity. The families have been involved in bringing in materials to be recycled in our Art, Design and Creative areas. Children have created posters for the local community about local environmental issues. They continue to show interest in how to look after our planet.
- Head Teacher – “The children, parents and staff engaged very well in our Green Flag journey. The children have a very good awareness of the Eco themes we covered, including recycling, biodiversity, growing food and reducing the amount of litter and plastic used. The newly redesigned garden has been particularly successful and offers a wide range of learning experiences for the children daily. “
- Community member. “It’s good to see the children out collecting litter in the local area. The garden looks really beautiful. They have done so much work to improve it . It adds to the neighbourhood and is a pleasure for us all.”
- Local Partner: Community Group, Business or Environmental Organisation: “We met with the children of Hazeldene Family Centre to get their ideas for the garden. We used their pictures as the plans for the landscaping work. The children can grow vegetables in the raised beds we made for them. It has been a pleasure working at this fantastic nursery!” MKM Property Services

We worked with a local landscaping company to develop our nursery garden. The children drew plans of what they wanted for the garden. They met with the landscapers to find out if their ideas could be included in the garden. We applied for a grant from Awards for All which paid for a new shelter and landscaping in the garden. The children met with the landscapers again when we had received the grant to draw up the final plans. The children called a meeting with the head teacher to share their plans. The landscapers worked directly from the children’s drawings to create a Fairy Garden; winding pathways through the garden, raised beds to plant fruit and vegetables and an enclosure for the sandpit which the children had built with the staff.

We will be applying for more grants including Food for Thought and Awards for All. This will involve working with community partners to further develop the growing areas.



MKM Property Service @MKM_PS · 27 Aug 2018

Great pics of a recent job for @HazeldeneFamC ! Glad you like it and great to see the kids enjoying their garden!



HazeldeneFamCentre @HazeldeneFamC

The children are enjoying exploring the new landscaped areas in our garden, funded through our @BIGScotland lottery grant. They will be starting to grow vegetables in the raised beds.