**C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\MEDIA\CAGCAT10\j0285360.wmfMEARNS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**SPRING ECO NEWSLETTER**

Our school has an ECO Committee who meet regularly to discuss and take action on a wide range of ECO issues which affect our school, our environment and beyond.

The types of issues explored include biodiversity, transport, waste minimisation, school grounds, health and wellbeing, water, litter, energy, food and the environment and sustaining our world. This term we are focusing on minimising waste and litter.

Every class in the school is represented in the ECO Committee. There is also an ECO Committee in our nursery.

We decided to produce this newsletter to inform you of some of the work completed by the ECO Committee so far this session and also to let you know about some of the exciting events planned for Term 3.

**A Cleaner Playground**

In December, the ECO Committee expressed their concern about the amount of litter in the playground. The committee spoke at each of the stage assemblies and informed the pupils that they would be monitoring the amount of rubbish being collected by our litter pickers.

Each month, the litter collected has been weighed to help us track our progress. In December, the litter pickers collected 28.6 kilos of litter but in January the amount had dropped to 18 kilos.

As a special reward for our efforts in reducing litter in our playground, Mrs Dillon-Ruddy, allowed us to have a special Eco free time.

**Waste Minimisation in the Lunch Hall**

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We have introduced a new recycling scheme in our lunch hall. Lunch hall monitors have been fantastic. They help us use the correct bins when through away our waste. Recyclable materials such as metal, plastic and cardboard go in the green bins, food waste goes in the yellow bins and any other rubbish goes in red bins. This means that Bellrock staff can make sure that much of our waste is recycled instead of going straight to landfill.

We are keen to reduce the amount of waste even further …… can you help us?

If your child has a packed lunch, please could you help reduce the amount of packaging in the lunch box, eg switching to a reusable bottle instead of a throw away drink bottle or using a plastic sandwich box instead of wrapping sandwiches in tinfoil.

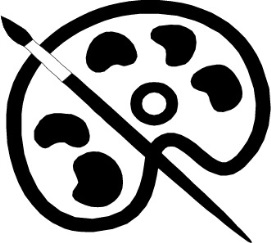
**Let’s Grow Vouchers**

Thank you very much to the families who collected Morrison’s *Let’s Grow Vouchers* for the school. The ECO Committee were consulted and we purchased a butterfly and bee house and seven bird nesting boxes to encourage wildlife into our ECO Garden. We also purchased a potato barrel and lots of packets of seeds which we hope to plant shortly.

**Rag Bag**

Our next Rag Bag event is on Tuesday, 10 March. If you are planning to do a spot of spring cleaning, then please don’t throw away your old clothes. Bring them into school on the morning of 10 March. Our last collection raised £182 which allowed us to buy plants and equipment for the ECO Garden.

**Eco Code Competition**

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We are currently looking for a new ECO Code for the school. An Eco code is a short poem or slogan which shows how we are Eco friendly at Mearns Primary. Entrants have been asked to design a colourful A4 poster which incorporates their own ECO Code. Special ECO prizes will be awarded to the winning entry from each stage.

**Eco Week**

The ECO Committee are currently busy organising many fun activities for the whole school which will take place during ECO week (Monday 23 March to Friday 27 March). Some of the activities include ECO themed talks by visiting specialists, gardening and planting activities and ECO design projects in art and design and technology. Our week of celebrations will conclude with a special ECO assembly for the whole school.

**Walk on Wednesday**

During ECO week, the ECO Committee would like as many pupils as possible to walk to school on Wednesday, 25 March. We believe that walking to school can greatly reduce congestion and pollution caused by cars. It is also beneficial to our health and great fun too! Please join us by putting on your walking shoes!

**Eco Super Hero Competition**

****Prior to ECO Week, pupils will receive information about a new competition when they will be asked to design and make an ECO Super Hero costume out of recycled materials. Pupils will be asked to wear their creations to school on Friday, 27 March. An overall winner will be chosen for each stage. The lucky winners will be presented with a special ECO prize during our special whole assembly. It’s time to get your thinking caps on!

**Earth Hour**

The ECO Committee understand that energy should be conserved where possible and are keen to highlight this by turning off all non-essential electrical appliances eg classroom lights and computers, during our Earth Hour. This will take place on Friday, 27 March from 2pm to 3pm.

Your family may wish to participate in the WWF’s annual Earth Hour on Saturday, 28 March from 8.30pm to 9.30pm. Your can find out more about Earth Hour at:

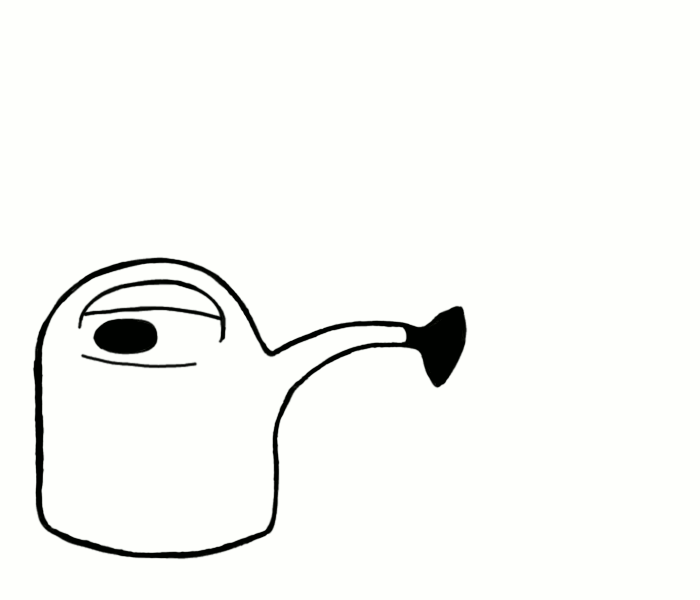
www.earthhour.wwf.org.uk/earth-hour

**Wanted: Keen Gardeners**

We are keen to develop our ECO Garden further but Mearns Primary needs YOU!

We are looking for parents or grandparents who are willing to help plant and tend our ECO Garden. We are happy to accept any offers of help and can work around the volunteer’s personal circumstances. We are also happy for volunteers to work on a short term or long term basis. C:\Users\weymess\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JYD6WZF7\blockpage[1].gif

If you are interested, please email [schoolmail@mearns.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@mearns.e-renfrew.sch.uk) and Mrs McGregor or Mrs Gordon will reply.

**Also wanted: Gardening Equipment**

The ECO Committee would be really grateful if you could donate any of the following items to help us develop our ECO Garden further:

* Small plant pots and seed tray
* Bags of compost
* Bedding plants and seeds

We are planning to do lot of planting work during our ECO week. It would be brilliant if any donations could be sent into school on Monday, 6 March. Alternatively, we will have an ECO stall during Parents’ Evenings and would be delighted to receive any donations on the night.

**Lost Property**

We are very grateful to the mums who have been coming into school every week to sort out lost property. There is an enormous amount of items which are **unnamed** and we will put these out on tables on Parents’ Nights. If you wish to take an item of clothing which could be of use to you, then please feel free to take home and leave a small donation towards our ECO Committee funds in the box provided. Any items left at the end of the week will be recycled.

**Please keep up with our ECO news on our GLOW group.**

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