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04/01/2023

Dear Margaret Shedden and Jennifer McFadzean,

Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award Assessment Feedback

Congratulations to everyone at Springside Primary school and Early Years Class for achieving your 6th Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award!

I thoroughly enjoyed reading through your application and learning about the fantastic work you have carried out during this journey. You have covered all Seven Elements of the Eco-Schools programme.

Staff and pupils have shown commitment and determination in completing your planned actions. Well done.

Your actions were very positive, and it is wonderful to see that the pupils have been covering a really good range of issues through their work.

The pupils have achieved a good understanding of your chosen Sustainable Development Goal, Responsible Consumption and Production, as well as having learned about Litter prevention, reducing environmental pollution, Waste Minimisation, Waste Management, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Wellbeing, Climate Action, Life on Land, and Transport through engaging, dynamic, and interactive activities throughout the journey. Linking the actions to your chosen Sustainable Development Goal, Responsible Consumption and Production, has helped pupils to become more aware of how the goal is set to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

Your Eco-Code has displayed a clear message of the school's mission in how the pupils can

contribute to the solutions of Climate Change. I like how you have used 'SPRINGSIDE' as an acrostic rhyme to draw attention to your Eco-Schools' work. You have used the noticeboards well sharing your eco vision, values, targets, and achievements this has helped to keep the whole school community up to date about your Eco-Schools work.

It is great to see that Learning for Sustainability is embedded within the curriculum. This has helped pupils to achieve a better understanding of how to build a socially-just, sustainable, and equitable society. This has also provided them with the opportunity to continually explore Eco and Environmental issues. Your approach of combining YouTube videos with hands-on activities has really helped deepen the children's learning and understanding of the climate crisis. Staff have been able to develop a wide range of resources and materials, shared lessons that linked up to explore key ideas and shared learning opportunities across the school. This has allowed the whole school community to play a part in being a 'Green Flag school'.

Your links with the community has allowed pupils to take an active role to work with others to make our planet more peaceful, sustainable, and fairer. These activities have also allowed them to foster responsible behaviour within the school and wider community. They have explored a range of resources that offered engaging and collaborating ways into the complex emergency of climate change. These activities have allowed them to learn that there are many solutions to the climate emergency they can contribute to. Supporting the community food larder has allowed the children to engage in civic minded activities. These activities have also taught pupils that they are part of a community and has helped to create a greater sense of self-esteem and self-worth and learned to be respecting citizens, as part of their responsibilities towards helping in take care of the environment and the local community.

Fresh-Air Friday has helped encourage parental involvement and has allowed parents and carers to make good connection with the school, understand their children's learning, and had the advancement to create more positive experiences for the pupils.

The Litter and Waste Minimisation actions have helped to increase pupil's understanding of the harm litter brings to the environments and wildlife. The actions have also provided them with practical skills to prevent and manage litter and waste to prevent this from happening and encouraged long-term positive behavioural change in their communities and beyond. The collaboration with Streetscene has helped to raise awareness to bin waste and a gentle reminder to dog owners that they must pick up any dog mess made by their 'best friends'. Taking a binbag to the football field has helped encourage pupils to dispose their waste effectively. Creating visual information about environmental issues through observing and recording from their experiences across the curriculum has allowed the children to encourage others to play their part for caring for the environment.

Using scrap paper for wet playdays and the different reusing schemes have helped developed pupils understanding of the importance of reusing. The Eco-Friendly Living challenges have helped encourage families to reduce their carbon footprint. Well done for linking food waste with health and wellbeing as this should help develop pupil's understanding how by changing their consumption they can help secure a greener, healthier, and climate resilient future. I look forward to hearing more of the pupil's proposals to reduce photocopying and laminating at a future journey.

Investigating school routes has allowed pupils to identify road safety concerns and address these. The road safety activities with the help of the JRSO has helped develop better road safety awareness. These activities should help encourage active travel and enhance health and wellbeing. hopefully you are successful with the application for a sheltered storage.

Your School Ground actions have provided more outdoor learning activities which have allowed pupils to participate in coherent, rewarding, and transformative learning experiences. Pupils have developed a good understanding of aspects of Biodiversity and Climate Change as part of their work towards their John Muir Award club. Planting trees, bulbs, and making wildflower bombs has helped to improve air quality, store oxygen, and give life to the world's wildlife. Creating bird feeders and providing different foods has encouraged a variety of birds to visit the school grounds. These activities have allowed pupils to learn about bird behaviour and needs throughout the seasons. The pond should help increase eco-systems and provide a rich and sensory learning environment, that helps develop life skills and awareness of the seasons and natural treasures. Your planned actions to revamp the ugly gas house should help to create more habitats and increase biodiversity.

Growing your own foods has helped to promote a sense of exploration and discovery. Pupils have learned how plants grow and develop; how to look after them; and how growing your own foods contributes to sustainable lifestyles. These activities have also allowed them to develop their sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around them. Composting has helped to develop pupils understanding of the importance of natural biological processes and that everything is connected in nature. This has also help them to understand that it's important to preserve their environment and how to build a healthy relationship with it

Pupils have developed an understanding how they as individuals and collaboratively can contribute to support their aims to combat climate change and can add their voices for a collective action for a sustainable future. Their efforts throughout the journey should support them to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens, and effective contributors.

Achieving a Green Flag Award means a good amount of versatility and commitment from staff and pupils. All pupils benefitted from a wide range of challenging, motivating, meaningful and fun learning experiences which support them to develop creativity, resilience, and independence. Staff has helped to create a nurturing, inclusive, innovative, and stimulating learning environment, and a respectful and positive ethos by working closely with everyone in the school community.

Please, be aware that since August 2021 the topics of Litter and Waste Minimisation have merged into one. Since September 2022 Climate Action is our new Core Topic. You are still encouraged to carry out (Community) litter picks as litter picks are a simple activity to enhance children's understanding of the harm litter can cause, provide practical skills to prevent litter from happening, and to foster long-term positive behavioural change in their communities and beyond.

Keep up the outstanding work and a big congratulations again to Springside Primary school and Early Years Class 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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