

ECO/School Council Newsletter

Welcome to our first Eco/School Council Newsletter for 2014!

The ECO team and the School Council have joined forces (name to be decided) and one of our goals is to achieve the Green Flag. We already have our Bronze Certificate (Step 1) and are in the process of applying for our Silver Certificate (Step 2). Once we get our Silver we can start working towards our Green Flag (Step 3).

We have been busy over the past year within school. Eco projects last year included:

- **Building and implementing 7 raised beds for Years 1 & 2**
Last year they planted strawberries, herbs and flowers. They learnt about how things grow and how we must tend to them. This of course included weeding – not everyone's favourite!
- **Purchasing and feeding 2 Wormeries for Year 3**
After some worms decided they wanted to escape, we got to grips with caring for the worms and they are now happily producing black gold/compost for our raised beds. These worms reuse organic waste from year 3 break/lunchtime snacks reducing our waste output.
- **Continuing to expand our Mini Beast Hotel**
The hotel is up and running but we need to spend some time modernising the facility and upgrading it to a 5* status!
- **Planting and potting 50 trees donated from the Woodland Trust**
They are flourishing in our Eco Garden and we are looking to plant them on school grounds as possible hedging around our new outdoor classroom (situated at the side of the canteen).
- **Partnerships**
Last year we worked with Ulster Wildlife Foundation learning about how we as a school can become more ECO friendly. Other partnerships developed included Tesco, HSBC, Wrigley's and Belfast City Council. We hope to continue these relationships with many more exciting new projects.

Here is a photo of our group hanging bird feeders in the Eco Garden.



Please remember the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch is on this weekend – visit www.RSPB.co.uk for more details.

This year we are very excited to announce 2 very important projects in January and February (more to follow later in the year).

January

We are asking every pupil and member of Park Lodge staff to have a clear out of clothes, bags, shoes that you no longer require and donate them to the school so we can sell them on to the Used Clothes Company. This is very important, for all money raised will be spent on Eco/School Council activities over the next year.

You should have received a bag today, Thursday 23 January.

Please fill bag(s) with any items no longer required and they can be left in the assembly hall from Monday 27th January to Friday 31st January.

Please feel free to fill additional black bags if you don't have enough space in the bag given.

Every child who donates a bag into the school will be placed into a draw which will take place on Friday 31st January. 1 child from Y1 to Y3 and 1 child from Y4 to Y7 will have the chance to win a FREE Movie House Family Pass!!!

Announcing our partnership with RSPB

RSPB need our HELP! They are asking you to do your own family bird watch. Visit the www.RSPB.co.uk for more details – Look ASAP as it takes place this weekend. They really need this information to feedback on our local wildlife. On Tuesday 28th January, Catherine from the RSPB will come in and give a power point presentation to our Year 5-7's to introduce the children to our native local birds and what we can do as a school/family to help.

February

As a continuation to the RSPB visit in January, this month will be dedicated to our local birds and what we can do to help them over the winter. The RSPB will be visiting our school on Tuesday 4th February to help us complete the Big School Bird Watch. On Friday 14th February the whole school will have the opportunity to build a bird feeder and bring it home.

PLEASE SUPPORT US IN THIS MOST IMPORTANT INITIATIVE.

Without your interest, time, donations and volunteering of services we would not be able to achieve our goals. Help us get our Green Flag!

Thank-you.

ECO / School Council.
www.parklodeschool.com