

ALSTON LANE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

September 2016

Eco Schools Update 2016

We have been working as an Eco School for many years now and are very proud of our Green Flag award which we have recently renewed for a third time.



The school continues to be environmentally aware and every class strives to include our Eco ethos in their everyday learning. We have a strong focus on recycling at Alston Lane and we use recycled materials wherever and whenever possible (see next page).

The children are enthusiastic about our Eco status and are keen to learn and help with our Eco initiatives. Our Eco team are keen to promote our ethos and regularly check during lunchtimes and playtimes for lights and appliances being left on. They will also check for windows and doors being left open when the radiators are on. We have litter pickers, some keen gardeners in the summer and our fruit and veg waste is always composted in the school garden. Children also monitor our gas, electricity and water usage. The school, from time to time, holds Eco weeks when our Eco status and the Environment are the focus and interesting activities and visits take place.

We have an up to date **Travel Plan**. The school was successful, after many years of campaigning, to reduce the speed limit outside the school and we encourage parents and children to walk or cycle to school wherever possible. We have a robust waterproof bike shed where bikes can be secured (*with a bike lock*) if wished.

Please visit the school website to view our Policy for Environmental and Sustainable Development.

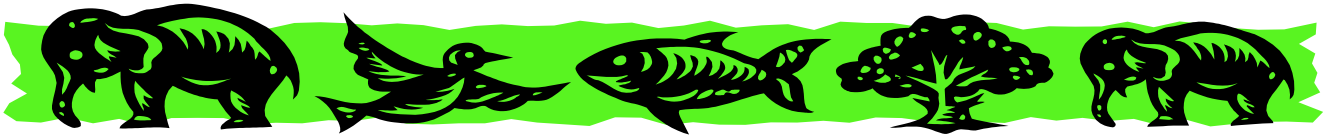
School Garden: Recently, a Green Award from LCC paid for us to have seating in our Eco garden, enough for a whole class to enjoy an outdoor lesson. An earlier grant provided raised beds which enables every class to have their own small 'plot'.



Our Eco garden is a wonderful resource to educate and raise awareness of the outdoors. It also helps to support local wildlife by providing a varied environment of plants, vegetables, shrubs and trees. **However, maintaining the garden is a constant issue and we would welcome voluntary help with this.** We would be happy for someone with green fingers to use our resource to grow their own vegetables if you could occasionally allow the children to see what you are doing? However **any help with garden maintenance or growing would be most welcome!**



Nature Walks Last year our school won a Chairman's Challenge award for our nature walk initiative where other schools, from more deprived areas, were invited to come and enjoy our organised nature walks and use our specially prepared sheets to identify plants and wildlife along the way. Our on-site wildlife expert, Mr Small often enjoys accompanying these visitors and helping them to spot some of the more unusual wildlife.



HELP US WITH OUR RECYCLING INITIATIVES WHICH CAN ALSO HELP TO RAISE SOME VALUABLE INCOME FOR THE SCHOOL

Ink Cartridges & batteries: Please continue to bring in your used ink cartridges and batteries to place in the bins provided in the school reception area.



Textiles: The school continues to operate a scheme where we collect good quality used clothing, hand bags, shoes, bedding, curtains and belts. These are collected **termly** when a van arrives on the school car park at 3 pm for bags to be deposited. The school now collects 40p per kilo from these collections and the goods are taken to third world countries where they are sold on for a nominal fee. Please use bin liner type bags to collect your textiles. **Watch the school newsletter for dates of the next collection.**

We also have a small skip for these items on the school playground; please encourage your neighbours, friends and relatives to help us too by depositing their unwanted items for recycling. The school can also claim money for items placed in the textile skip, however the van collection gives us the most and the skip fills up very quickly.

Paper & cardboard: We have 3 paper skips located on the Back Lane which are emptied on a weekly basis (*they are individually marked*). You are welcome to deposit your used paper, magazines, books and cardboard. However, the school can no longer claim payment for the waste paper.

.....
Fair Trade

We are also a Fair Active school. By helping to offer a 'fair trade' and raise awareness of suppliers in poorer countries we can also help to sustain *their* environment and living conditions.



Thank you for your continued support of our Eco initiatives

