

Issue 1
November 2022

Thorner's Eco Newsletter

*'Be the change you
want to see in the
world'*

Welcome to Thorner's first eco newsletter. This monthly newsletter will provide children, parents, carers and the wider school community with school sustainability updates, eco tips and activities to support biodiversity at home. The teachers and children of Thorner's care deeply about the environment and we would love to share our ideas, opinions and actions with you all.

Eco-schools



As a school we have signed up to eco-schools. The Eco-Schools programme provides a simple, seven-step framework to empower young people to make a difference in their school, local community and beyond. Since 1994, millions of young people around the world have worked through the Eco-Schools Seven Steps before being recognised for their efforts with a prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag.

Schools connect their activities to three or more of the Ten Eco-Schools Topics. These topics break large, global issues like climate change into more manageable and directed themes that prompt young people to consider environmental changes that they can make in their school and everyday lives.

We have now established an eco-committee of 13 members from across the school and we have been working hard to start our Eco-Schools journey towards a Green Flag award. Within our first month, we carried out an environmental review, this identified our strengths and weaknesses as a school. As a result, we identified three key topic areas that we will endeavour to target over the coming year.

To meet these targets, we have been busy making a large number of eco posters which are to be placed around the school. We have carried out a litter pick and identified the need for and secured a suitable outdoor bin. We have contacted our local MP, highlighting our environmental concerns and offering some of our suggested solutions to the climate emergency, we are looking forward to his response. Finally, we are looking forward to leading our first eco assembly before Christmas.

'There is no planet B' Plastic Free Schools

Alongside Eco-Schools, we have signed up to the Plastic Free Schools initiative from Surfers Against Sewage. At Thorner's we are aware of the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling. While we aim to adopt the three R's in our everyday lives, we are aware that not all materials can be recycled, and some pose a threat to the biodiversity of our planet.

Plastic free schools aims to address issues surrounding plastic including littering and the threat to wildlife and biodiversity. We have established a plastic free school's council which is comprised of 6 members. We aim to address littering within school and the village alongside identifying plastic use in school. We want to replace as many single use plastics used within school as possible. By using greener alternatives, we hope to make a positive change which will allow us to receive Plastic Free Schools status.

Eco tips

- **Switch off** – turn off lights and devices when they are not being used.
- **Food coverings** – try and replace tin foil and cling film in lunch boxes with green alternatives such as bees wax food wraps.
- **Turn off the tap** – don't leave them running to save water.
- **Wear pre-loved** – pass down clothes, look in charity shops and buy from re-selling apps such as vinted.

Bug hotel instructions

Bug hotels help promote biodiversity.

They are fun to make and they are a good way of reusing materials.

How to build a bug hotel

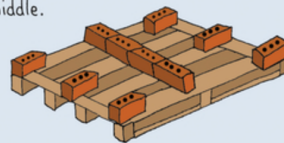


You will need:

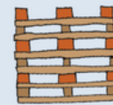
- Wooden pallets x4
- Bricks
- Plastic bottles*
- Bamboo canes
- Straw
- Leaves
- Tiles
- Cardboard
- Stones/pebbles
- Twigs/loose bark

*Use old plastic bottles for this, and always recycle after use.

- 1 Place a wooden pallet in your chosen location. On top of the pallet, line bricks around the corners and across the middle.



- 2 Place your next pallet on top of this and repeat the process for all of your pallets.



- 3 Cut off the top two-thirds of your bottles. Fill up half of them with bamboo canes/plastic straws and the other half with rolled up cardboard. Place these inside the hotel.



- 4 Fill in the remaining spaces with bricks, leaves, pebbles, stones, tiles, loose bark and straw.



- 5 Add in any extra materials that you want to recycle e.g. old pipes, carpeting, toilet tubes, old plant pots. Be creative – add a welcome sign or give your hotel a name!

