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Thorner's Eco Newsletter

*'Your better
choices are
everyone's
better world'*

Happy new year to all our readers.

Welcome to Thorner's third Eco Newsletter. We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break; we have come back to school with some great ideas and initiatives to help make our school greener and more sustainable. Before the Christmas break, all members of Eco-Schools and Plastic Free Schools received a metal eco-warrior badge and the children have been wearing these with pride since. We look forward to telling you what we have been up to in the last month.

Eco-schools

At Eco-schools we have been busy planning several initiatives which will take place over the first few months of the year. These initiatives will help to tick off a few objectives on our action plan, getting us a step closer to an Eco-Schools green flag award.

Since Christmas, we have invested in a range of materials and items to help support biodiversity within school. We have secured 6 nut feeders, 6 seed feeders and 3 suet block feeders as well as the food to stock these. We believe this will encourage birds onto our site and will support them during the cold weather. We have secured a bird bath, 4 bird boxes and 2 bat boxes. We are also hoping to save up and purchase a hedgehog house. We have learnt about the importance of biodiversity in science, and we want to ensure that our school site supports all living species.

We are also excited to announce that we will be raising money for water aid on world water day on 22nd March. We are arranging a non-school uniform day for all, where the children wear blue to raise awareness towards the lack of clean water that still affects millions globally. Furthermore, we are aiming to arrange a sponsored water walk on the day for years 3-6. The average child in Africa who walks for water, walks 6km every day. We are aiming to replicate this daily walk on the field to raise funds and awareness. All the money we raise will go towards installing water pumps and water storage for those in need around the world. We will introduce the fundraiser in an assembly after half term.



*‘As consumers we have so much power to change the world by just being careful with what we buy’ –
Emma Watson*

Plastic Free Schools

Before Christmas, we wrote a letter to the Environment Secretary, raising concerns about the continued everyday use of single use plastics. We sent the letter just before the Christmas break, we are yet to receive a response, but we remain hopeful.

While we decided that contacting the Environment Secretary was important, we also decided that a daily reminder to all of us about single use plastics would be beneficial to the school community. Therefore, the Plastic Free School’s committee have decided to collaborate with the Eco-Schools committee on creating a large-scale plastic bottle top artwork. Thank you to all who have sent in plastic bottle tops, we nearly have enough to create our mural which we hope will inspire and remind all members of our school community to reduce, reuse and recycle wherever possible.

Eco tips

- **Insulate your home** – Insulating can be a large scale and expensive job, but small actions can also help to insulate houses. Draft excluders around doors and windows are very effective. Furthermore, closing curtains whenever possible can help to preserve heat in the house.
- **Fix it, don’t throw it away** – While repairing is not always practical, it often does remain possible. Monthly repair cafés have been popping up across Dorset, why not pop to one and see if your broken or damaged item can be repaired to avoid buying a new one.

Wildlife ponds

Half a million ponds have been lost over the last 100 years in the UK. Ponds promote biodiversity and are a brilliant habitat for dozens if not hundreds of species.

How to build a mini wildlife pond

