

JYS Eco Team Meeting Minutes – summer 2017



Eco Team Meeting Minutes

- **3rd May 2017**

- Today the new summer term Eco Team met for the first time and we got our Eco Committee badges!
- Mrs Ritchie and Mrs Abraham (one of our school governors) joined us for the session and Mrs Abraham took our photos to put up on the Eco Team display board.
- Mrs Neville asked us what we would like to focus on in Eco Club during the summer term. Our ideas include:
 - making new posters to put up around school to remind people to save water;
 - encouraging everyone to enjoy using the outdoor spaces at school whilst looking after them properly;
 - doing a 'Walk to School' challenge;
 - continuing our work on recycling to include awareness about plastic bag recycling.
- We also took photographs of us taking part in the Big Battery Hunt and we talked about why battery recycling is important.

Eco Team Meeting Minutes

- **10th May 2017**

- Today we started the session looking at different books about water that had been made by the Eco Team last year.
- We also looked at a 'water usage' book made by Mrs Neville's old class in a school in Worcestershire, as well as a 'water usage' book made by the children of Kerr Sait Maram Lower School in the Gambia, which Mrs Neville had visited twice.
- It was really interesting to see how many different things we use water for around the world!
- We talked about the fact that there used to be posters up around the school to remind everyone not to waste water, but most of these seem to have vanished and we decided that we wanted to make some new ones!
- The rest of the session was spent designing and making our water-saving advice posters.

Eco Team Meeting Minutes

- **17th May 2017**

- In today's session, we focused on analysing the results of our 'Big Battery Hunt' so far!
- We worked in pairs to sort and count how many of each type of battery has been donated to our battery recycling point.
- We were surprised to find that when we added all of our results together, a total of 744 batteries have already been collected!
- AA batteries were the most common (with 486 of these), followed by AAA batteries (223).
- We used the rest of the session to finish making our posters about being water-wise, ready for Mrs Neville and Mrs Ritchie to laminate them for us.

Eco Team Meeting Minutes

- **24th May 2017**

- Today we put up our water-saving advice posters around the school. We have tried to put a poster by every sink used by adults and/or children, so hopefully everyone will be reminded to turn off the taps and use water wisely.
- For some fun, we also completed a code-breaking sheet from the 'Big Battery Hunt' pupil booklet. The solved code spelt out a message which reminded us to 'never throw batteries in the bin'!
- We also had a discussion about what we wanted to include in our next Eco Team newsletter, which will go home to families after half term. Ideas included:
 - A 'Big Battery Hunt' update;
 - Water facts and water saving tips;
 - Information about our 'Fairtrade surprises' to be unveiled at the summer fair;
 - Asking families for their Eco ideas.

Eco Team Meeting Minutes

- **7th June 2017**

- Today we finished writing our Eco Team newsletter which will be emailed out to families tomorrow.
- We then went litter picking in the school grounds!
- Whilst the main playground was quite litter-free, we were surprised and disappointed about how much litter we found around the edges of the field and in the Sensory Garden. We picked up many empty plastic raisin packets, sweet wrappers, lolly wrappers, crisp packets, pieces of tin foil, pieces of paper and old tissues.
- Following our litter picking session, we decided to add another section to our newsletter, to ask families to help keep our school litter-free by reminding them to put their rubbish in the bins.

Eco Team Meeting Minutes

- **14th June 2017**

- Today we carried out a wildlife survey in the school grounds.
- First, we visited the pond area and saw some newts.
- We also visited the Sensory Garden and the area by the hut, where we found lots of different wildlife species including ladybird larvae, beetles, worms, bees, centipedes and woodlice.
- Sparrows, pigeons and seagulls were seen flying overhead too.
- Mr Vaughan told us that early in the mornings when it is quiet, before we all get to school, he sometimes sees woodpeckers on the field.
- We were surprised that we didn't see much activity in 'Buglins' (our minibeast hotel) today, although there was evidence of spiders because we saw lots of webs!

Eco Team Meeting Minutes

- **21st June 2017**

- Today we spent our session outside in the sunshine!
- We were looking at the area between the hut and the outside classroom to see how it could be improved.
- Mrs Neville asked us to think about the important parts of the area and what we could add to it.
- We sketched plans of our ideas. These included:
 - Keeping a daffodil maze area;
 - Adding a 'wild flower' garden area;
 - Keeping the orchard area but investigating opportunities for using the fruits;
 - Cutting in clear paths through the whole area for people to walk;
 - Cutting back the trees to allow more space;
 - Moving 'Buglins' to a shaded area, possibly under the birch trees, to attract more minibeasts in a cooler habitat;
 - Adding some bird houses in the taller trees;
 - Placing a bench or two in the area;
 - Cutting the grass in an area under a tree so we can put blankets down and have a place to sit.

Eco Team Meeting Minutes

- **28th June 2017**

- We started today's session by sorting and counting up all the batteries donated to our 'Big Battery Hunt' since our last count on the 17th May.
- In total, 345 new batteries have been collected, bringing the overall total to **1,089** so far! We are really pleased with this!
- Next week, we are going to make Fairtrade Rocky Road Crunch Bars to sell at the Summer Fair, so today we watched a film from the Fairtrade Foundation to learn about how Fairtrade chocolate is produced. It was really interesting as most of us didn't know that a chocolate bar starts its life as lots of cocoa beans!

Eco Team Meeting Minutes

- **5th July 2017**

- Today we had lots of fun making our Fairtrade Rocky Road Crunch Bars, ready to sell at the Summer Fair on Friday!

Fairtrade Rocky Road Crunch Bars



Ingredients

- 125g/4½oz soft unsalted butter;
- 300g/10½oz best-quality fairtrade dark chocolate, broken into pieces;
- 3 tbsp fairtrade honey;
- 200g/7¼oz rich tea biscuits;
- 100g/3½oz mini marshmallows;
- 2 tsp fairtrade icing sugar, to dust.

Method

1. Heat the butter, chocolate and honey in a heavy-based saucepan over a gentle heat.
2. Remove from the heat, scoop out about 125ml/4½fl oz of the melted mixture and set aside in a bowl.
3. Place the biscuits into a plastic freezer bag and crush them with a rolling pin until some have turned to crumbs but there are still pieces of biscuit remaining.
4. Fold the biscuit pieces and crumbs into the melted chocolate mixture in the saucepan. Then add the marshmallows.
5. Tip the mixture into a 24cm/9in square baking tin and smooth the top with a wet spatula.
6. Pour over the reserved 125ml/4½fl oz of the melted chocolate mixture and smooth the top with a wet spatula.
7. Refrigerate for about two hours or overnight.
8. To serve, cut into 24 fingers and dust with icing sugar.

Eco Team Meeting Minutes

- **12th July 2017**

- Today we spent time preparing for our Green Flag assessment visit on Monday by reminding ourselves of all the Eco learning and projects that we have done over this term and the past year.
- We also talked about things that we want to do before the end of the summer term, including updating the Eco Team display board with our new battery recycling total and doing at least one more litter pick to make sure the school stays tidy in the run up to the summer holiday.