



EMAS Winter 2008



www.emasinschools.org.uk

Eco-INSET

Nearly 40 teachers and TAs from Abbey Primary School started off this term with a full day of Eco-INSET training at the Ecohouse. Head Tim Foster said the school has "a number of good initiatives running. However the SLT were clear that these initiatives were dependent on one member of staff and a small group of children.

The aim of the INSET Day at the Ecohouse was to widen and deepen understanding and commitment to sustainability." EMAS Officers ran a number of sessions throughout the day: Staff participated in systems games that demonstrated how the parts of natural systems are interdependent with one another

and how this affects predictions about Climate Change. We then did nature awareness activities in Western park, which was very popular with staff, many commenting on how important peace and calmness could be for children.

After lunch we heard about the magnitude of the threat of Climate Change and Resource Depletion and how a Transition to Local Resilience could make our communities stronger healthier places to be.

The whole staff team then action-planned what becoming a truly sustainable school would mean and what their first steps would be. EMAS Coordinator

Claire Guerin said "the INSET day has moved EMAS into the ownership of the whole school with lots of positive actions, that have already started, such as staff cycling to school."



A word from your team...

Welcome to all the new EMAS schools starting this year, and welcome back to continuing EMAS schools! Also, welcome to our new EMAS Officer, Liz Knowles who has joined the EMAS team.

We would like to wish all the schools every success on the EMAS scheme, especially as audit time is almost upon us for selected schools across the city.

Please don't worry though, as your EMAS officer will be there to support you prior to, and on the day of the audit to help you with the process.

Keep up the good work!

EMAS in schools - Inspiring Schools
To Take Positive Environmental Actions



Celebrating EMAS

From the 9th to 13th of July we held the annual EMAS celebration event, this year in the beautiful surroundings of Abbey Park.

Students and teachers from all 69 EMAS schools were invited to attend a day of exciting activities related to environmental issues.

Pupils worked with Patrick Nicholson, from the South East Alternative Science Network, to use their bodies to generate renewable energy. This energy was

then used to power lights, games and even a television.

Groups learned the art of weaving with waste when Clare Bull and Charlotte Jones taught them the skills to turn plastic bags in to pieces of art.

Other workshops on the Global Dimension and Junk Funk were also a success with children building their own musical instruments out of waste and learning the rhythms needed to play together.

The week was a great success with a large number of EMAS schools being able to attend, we were very impressed by the lengths groups went to to come using sustainable methods of transport such as taking the bus and, even better, walking!

If you would like further information on any of the activities or if you have any suggestions for next year's celebration event then please speak to your schools EMAS Officer.

Trivia

Trees absorb CO₂, so the more you plant, the more you're countering the CO₂ generated by your school. Tree planting in the school grounds not only gets you involved with science and nature, but helps to combat climate change and makes your school a nicer, greener place to be.

Why did the foolish gardener plant a light bulb?
He wanted to grow a power plant.



Schools' news

Humberstone

Humberstone Infants School held a 2-hour meeting to inform staff about the Sustainable Schools Agenda and how it relates to the EMAS work being carried out in school. They have already made significant progress since joining the scheme in 2006 and wanted to ensure EMAS was being incorporated throughout the school curriculum. Ofsted is now assessing schools Integration of the Sustainable Schools Agenda through the completion of SEF forms as well as during inspections. If you would like a similar meeting for your staff team contact your EMAS officer



Beaumont Leys Hub

Beaumont Leys Specialist Science School (BLSSS) have a long history of supporting it's feeder schools to engage with the EMAS programme and this year they have chosen to take it one step further.

BLSSS, Barley Croft, Woolsey House and Alderman Richard Hammond are going to unite to form the Beaumont Leys EMAS Hub. This will be a chance for coordinators to get together, share ideas and work together on joint projects. This project will also support the integration of extended services throughout the Beaumont Leys area as well as strengthening community cohesion.

The first meeting is being held at BLSSS this month and we look forward to bringing you an update on their progress. For further information on working closer with your feeder or secondary schools please contact your EMAS Officer.

Imperial Avenue

Imperial Avenue have recently made some exciting energy saving changes to their school, by having 220 solar panels installed by Sundog Energy. The solar panels are going to help the school reduce their carbon footprint, along with helping to save money on energy costs. The display panel in the reception is a great educational resource so that staff, pupils and visitors will be able to monitor the reduction of CO₂, and energy created by the panels.

Head teacher Jenny Pickering is delighted that they are one of Leicester's first 'solar schools'.

Dates for your Diary

26th November to 7th December - National Tree Week. Plant trees in your school grounds. You can order 30 free hedgerow or copse trees from www.treeforall.org.uk/JoinIn/AsASchool

If you don't have space to plant trees at your school, your EMAS Officer may be able to find you somewhere else to plant them.

29th November - Can you go a whole day without buying anything? Visit www.buynothingday.co.uk for more information.

16th December - EMAS presentation ceremony, where all EMAS schools will be awarded the new-style EMAS plaque, to be displayed in your school.

Cycle Training

Along with Groundwork's ACE Cycle Training Team your EMAS officers deliver national standard cycle training up to Bikeability Level 2. This is free to EMAS schools but places are limited. If you are interested, contact Tom Sage on 0116 2220251.

Also, Groundwork's 'Bikes 4 All' offers alternative curriculum activities for young people across the city and county. The course content mirrors that of the City & Guilds NVQ level 1 course with the exception of the more challenging Wheel Building modules. Our courses can also contribute towards the attainment of one unit of both ASDAN and CoPE. You chose the times and dates that suit you best!

Please contact Bikes 4 All on 0116 246 0048, or email bikes4all@gwll.org.uk
www.bikes4all.org.uk

Your Questions Answered...

Which recycled papers work well in photocopiers and printers?

Buying recycle paper saves energy, water, chemicals and, of course, trees. Many schools worry recycled paper will jam but this is no longer the case if you choose the right paper.

Moat Community College and English Martyrs are now buying recycled for all of their A3 and A4 paper. Moat "found out it wasn't much more expensive than normal paper" and now use Explorer Premium Recycled.

Hayley Edwards at English Martyrs says "we use A4 and A3 Evolve Paper 80gsm (ordered through ESPO). We use this in all of our photocopiers and printers. It is very rare that we get jams and usually its because we haven't fanned the paper enough. An excellent paper to use."

At Groundwork's office we use Ep4 A4 80gsm White and for coloured paper Repeat 100% recycled copier paper, A4, 80gsm. These are both ordered through ESPO and we have no problems with jamming.

One thing to note is that when you change paper brands whether recycled or not you are more likely to have jams while the machine adjusts to slightly different moisture content so don't give up after the first try!

Did you know?

Leaving a computer on overnight all year creates enough CO2 to fill a double-decker bus!

Classroom lights left on overnight for a year use enough energy to heat a home for five months!