

Dates for your Diary

January 26th is the closing date for **Green Life Award** applications - all schools welcome to apply - www.environmentcity.org.uk

From January we will be offering **free trips to the national forest**.

From February we have more **free Ecohouse tours**. Book now on 0116 222 0251

EcoHouse Events (Call 0116 254 5489):

Eco Cinema - 4th February, 4th March and 1st April, 2pm. Adults: £1, Concessions: 50p
Organic popcorn and ice-cream available

Free **Alternative Health Day**- 18th February

Free **Fairtrade Brunch**- 11th March, 11am

Useful Resources

Many of you have received trees from the Woodland Trust, but did you know that their website has a section dedicated to education? Visit www.woodland-trust.org.uk and follow the 'discovery' link to the 'Wild About Woods' page.

Some of you have asked for more information about creating your own energy at school. Visit the Energy Saving Trust website at www.est.org.uk for details of different renewable energy options.

Tea Break Trivia

There are 270 species of bees in the UK. Here are the main two:

Bumblebees: The Queen bee survives the winter by hibernating.

Honeybees: Considerably slow down during winter & not all of the hive survive.

a) Is Rhododendron poisonous to bees as well as humans?

b) Approximately how many bee flights are needed to collect enough nectar for a pot of honey? 300 or 30,000?



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Your Questions Answered....

Feel free to ask us any questions relating to your school and the environment and we'll do our best to answer them. You can send us your questions via the website, email us or ask your EMAS officer when they are next in school.

How should we deal with waste and its paper work in school?

Because the schemes on offer are constantly changing, make sure that you only sign contracts with any collectors on an annual basis. This will ensure you are able to get the best deal each year, and the paperwork should come automatically, with no charges!

Make sure you are clear on what waste you produce (paper, cardboard, plastics, glass etc). Do an audit as only then will you be able to make sure you are getting the appropriate collectors in and at the best price.

Barter with your collectors! If you want a different type of service eg. cardboard recycling, then ask them for it. Most will want to accommodate your needs!



EMAS

WINTER
2006/2007

www.emasinschools.org.uk



Green Fingers

By Mr A Greatrex
(KS1 Teacher)

This autumn Shenton Primary has been working hard to introduce their children to the growing world.

Resources from the www.theschoolgarden.com catalogue were the stimulus for a range of activities spread over a week throughout the whole school.

All the children had the opportunity to plant bulbs in a variety of ways, from a reception class planting crocus to year 4 naturalising bulbs in the school nature area to some activities that had a more commercial growers basis e.g. forcing on daffodils for mothers day.

We coupled these to a colouring competition and other activities downloaded from the nature detectives website. www.naturedetectives.org.uk.

Many staff had other ideas including year 6 and reception class visiting Spinney Hill Park together.

Another hit was the autumn watch website www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/autumnwatch/ in particular the theme song! By the end of the week the children had a greater understanding of autumn and planting bulbs.



There was lots of interest about autumn leaves and sycamore helicopters in the school playgrounds and excited discussions with their parents.

A big thank you to Tom Wallace for his support in helping the children with their planting.

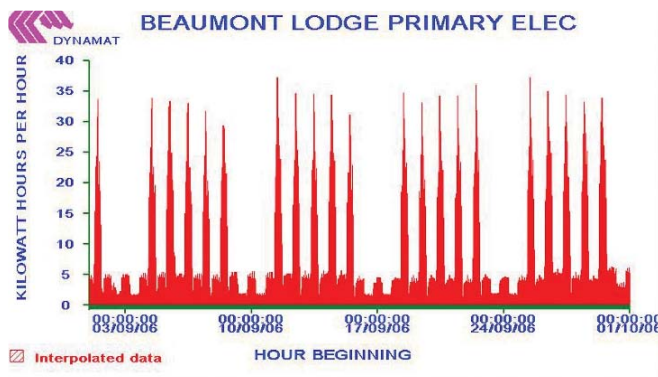
A word from your team...

We have recently received some fantastic news! The EMAS programme is a finalist for the 2006 National Energy Efficiency Awards!

This award aims to recognise best practice across all sectors for the contributions towards energy efficiency.

This is a direct result of all of the hard work that we have supported you to do, ranging from organising light monitors to renewing insulation on your boilers.

So, thank you for your hard work, whether we win or not, we really value the time and effort all our schools put into working on the EMAS project.



Why are We Using Electricity At Night??

After seeing this graph, children at Beaumont Lodge realised how much energy their floodlights were using at

night. Head Teacher, Alison Marsh decided to set them to turn off between 1am and 6am. "The lights are really useful for security and teachers leaving late in the winter but they don't need to be on in the early hours of the morning."

This will save roughly 3.5 Tonnes of CO2 per year and £600.

Could your school do the same?

Cut Your Energy Use

Leicester Schools are leading the country in measuring their water, electricity, and gas usage. Most EMAS schools now have an Intelligent Metering system installed. The Data Bird system uses low power radio to automatically transmit half-hourly meter readings to the Energy Efficiency Centre where the data is analysed. Unusual consumption is identified and reported to your school. This could be due to

many things, such as, water leaks, lights or heaters being left on all night, or heating controls going wrong. This information has already saved some schools £1000s in bills. As well as this exception reporting we have asked that monthly graphs are sent to EMAS schools so that your EMAS club and everyone else in the school can see details of your consumption. When you receive these graphs you

could display them on your EMAS board or include them in assemblies or newsletters. Making everyone aware of your schools usage could really help with campaigns to save water and energy. Imagine how rewarding it would be if your pupils could see on a graph the reductions they have helped to achieve that month! Make it a regular event so thinking about saving energy and water becomes second nature for everyone in your school.

Did you know?

If you haven't received your graphs yet get in touch with your EMAS officer or contact Jas from the Energy Advice Team on 0116 299 5149 or Jas.Odell@leicester.gov.uk

Leicester City council are offering 'invest to save' loans for energy efficiency measures in schools. Contact Prakash Patel from the Energy Advice Team on 0116 2995142 or prakash.patel@leicester.gov.uk

Schools' news

Riverside Community College

This is an exciting time for Riverside College! Students in the college have been working very hard on their new nature reserve. There is a brilliant new pond and lots of fun and hard work is happening with the creation of their garden allotments. EMAS students of Riverside have also harvested their hay from the long grass cut and it is presently drying out. Next, is the planting of the wildflower meadow!

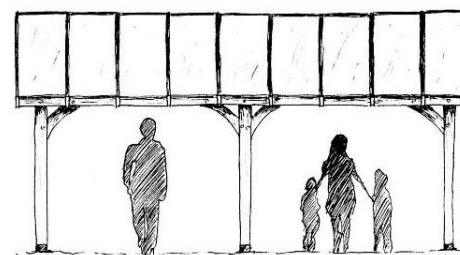


Humberstone Junior School

Humberstone Junior School pupils had a busy lunchtime in October, planting acorns to grow into oak trees. The children had had a fabulous chance to help grow trees for the future, to help our environment. In November, the EMAS club planted their oak seedlings into the school's tree nursery and had great fun getting into planting. When the seedlings have grown into saplings, the EMAS club are planning to donate them to Humberstone Park.

Green Oak

Local craftsman Ben Chester will soon be creating Green Oak buildings at a number of EMAS schools. Abbey, Forest Lodge, Coleman and Mellor are planning parent shelters, a fort and outdoor classroom made of this sustainable material. Ben mills the wood himself only a few miles away at Beacon Hill where the trees are being cut down as part of a heathland management project. Some will also have a living sedum roof!



Ashfield School

The EMAS club at Ashfield school are celebrating the work of previous students working on the EMAS project. A story featuring the characters of 'Ernest the EMAS fox' and his friends has been submitted to Friends of the Earth in a competition to win a wind turbine, as part of the Climate Change Shout About week in November. Watch this space...