



EMAS NEWS

March 2006

Trees For All

Schools and youth and community groups can receive a free Hedge or Copse pack to plant in their school grounds or community.

The Copse Pack contains 30 native trees, which are suitable for planting as a small wooded area or 'copse'. The Hedgerow Pack contains 30 plants to create a traditional hedgerow and provide an excellent habitat for wildlife.



The pack will arrive at your door during November, in time for the tree-planting season. Planting and maintenance instructions will arrive with your pack and complimentary education resources are available online.

To receive your free pack you need to register online from the 1st April 2006 at www.woodland-trust.org.uk/hedge.

EMAS online

The EMAS website is being used by more and more people. It is a great resource for downloading lesson plans that have appropriate curriculum links. The section titled "Bulletin Board" is also a great facility enabling conversations to exist between different EMAS schools. This facility is predominantly being used by pupils at the minute but it is also a great facility for teachers to ask questions/advice from other schools regarding the EMAS project.

If you have any questions or comments on the website please go online to the message board or speak to your EMAS Education Officer at Environ.

16 More Schools Become EMAS Accredited

This month saw the completion of the Internal and External audits. As is the case every year, the auditors are provided with a full list of schools currently undertaking EMAS and the auditors then select various schools to act as representative examples.

The schools that were chosen for the audits this year include:

Internal - Undertaken by Leicester City Council

- Avenue Junior
- Buswells Lodge Primary
- Holy Cross Catholic Primary
- Mayflower Primary
- Northfield House Primary
- Shenton Primary
- Uplands Junior
- Whitehall Primary



External - Undertaken by LRQA (Lloyds Registered Quality Assurance)

- Charnwood Primary
- Coleman Primary
- Parks Primary
- Scraftoft Valley Primary
- St. Josephs Primary
- Moat Community College
- Rusheyhead Secondary School
- Willowbrook Primary

The LRQA auditors concluded that all the schools audited should be recommended for inclusion within the scope of approval, thereby becoming EMAS certified. This means that all the schools currently on the EMAS scheme will be awarded the European Accreditation of EMAS.

Congratulations!!

Please Note: All schools will shortly receive an important letter requesting a meeting to discuss both the audit results and also the future of EMAS



EMAS in schools - Inspiring Schools
To Take Positive Environmental Actions





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Green Living Rewarded

EMAS schools were again publicly congratulated for their positive environmental actions, through winning a selection of awards at the Leicester Environment Partnership's Green Life Awards.

Last year the winner of the overall award was EMAS school Buswells Lodge, who were nominated for their excellent work in environmental education and the creation of a new classroom with many environmental features.



Since then, the school has been busy working on the grounds with plans to build a large pond and nature area - their prize money from the 2005 awards will contribute towards this.

School winners this year include Coleman Primary, Braunstone Frith Primary, Eyres Monsells Primary, Uplands Junior, The Lancaster School, Humberstone Junior and Willowbrook Primary.

Huge congratulations also go to **Beaumont Lodge** for being the overall category winner. The judges were impressed with the variety and depth of the different environmental activities that the school currently undertakes.

Cycle Training Film premiere!

There will be a finale event on Friday 28th April 2006, for all the four schools who have been involved in free cycle training through the Air today, Bike tomorrow project. The schools involved will cycle from their own school into the Phoenix Arts Centre, Upper Brown Street, to watch a DVD of the project.

In order for the day to go ahead we really need volunteers to ride alongside the children and supervise them on the journey, both National Standard Cycle training instructors and independent volunteer are welcome to join us. Your support would be required from approximately 11am to 3pm on the day.

If you are interested in helping out on the day please contact Holly Smith by email on hsmith@environ.org.uk or by phone on 0116 2220222.

Top Tip



Spring Wildlife

With the birds looking for nests, and new flowers slowly emerging, this is the perfect time of the year to begin thinking about the wildlife that is in your garden. This year why not try becoming more wildlife friendly.

When choosing your plants try to choose ones that are more attractive to native wildlife, for example, birds are attracted to berry-bearing plants in winter, such as cotoneasters, holly, pyracantha and skimmia. Also favourites with birds are natives like crab apples, hawthorn, honeysuckle, rowan, and sunflowers.

At the end of the season allow some of your plants to go to seed to provide winter food for seed-eating birds. Seed-heads also have an aesthetic bonus, as they provide winter interest in the garden.



www.emasinschools.org.uk

