



# EMAS

SPRING  
2009

[www.emasinschools.org.uk](http://www.emasinschools.org.uk)



## Bottle Greenhouse

Inglehurst Juniors have just completed a greenhouse made out of reused plastic bottles. Danny Bullock, the EMAS coordinator, heard about the idea when his daughter, who goes to Overdale Juniors, brought a letter home asking them to save up bottles for their greenhouse.

He liked the idea so much that he sent out letters, collected their bottles, and beat Overdale to it!

Danny said "It's part of our new growing area and we're hoping to grow tomatoes, other vegetables and bedding plants. We wanted to involve the community and liked the idea of using reused materials rather than buying a greenhouse."

Parents, teachers and children collected over 1,500 clear

plastic bottles. Children were involved in washing out and cutting the bottoms off the bottles. They then threaded the bottles on to canes, which were screwed into a wooden frame. The materials cost about £200.



The finished greenhouse looks fantastic and is not only made from reused materials but will be used to grow local organic vegetables

which reduces pollution from chemicals and transport.

If you would like to make one at your school check out these links which both include a materials list:

[www.reapscotland.org.uk/reports/greenhouse%20v1.pdf](http://www.reapscotland.org.uk/reports/greenhouse%20v1.pdf)

[www.makingyourown.co.uk/make-your-own-plastic-bottle-greenhouse.html](http://www.makingyourown.co.uk/make-your-own-plastic-bottle-greenhouse.html)

## A word from your team...

It's been a busy month for staff changes in the EMAS team at Groundwork.

We have said goodbye to Charlie Ghaye, Education Team Manager, and Tom Wallace, EMAS officer, who are off to Scotland to start exciting new jobs.

We want to say a huge thank you to Charlie and Tom for all their amazing work on the EMAS project.

We would like to welcome Gillian Forrester as our new education manager and Adam Clark as our new EMAS officer who will both join the team in the next month.

EMAS in schools - Inspiring Schools  
To Take Positive Environmental Actions



## Junk Funk

After the success of our Junk Funk sessions at the EMAS event last year many schools have been asking how they can set up their own Junk Funk sessions. Junk Funk is the creation of instruments from everyday waste, and helps to engage young people, families and the wider community.

Junk Funk is a journey of musical and environmental experiences and allows children to explore local and global environmental issues. It also helps to bridge the gap between an existing

enthusiasm for music whilst learning about how we can reuse things and convert them into something useful.

Junk funk helps to support schools to work towards a more sustainable future, along with having cross-curricular links, after school provision, links to EMAS and the Sustainable Schools Agenda, at the same time as creating a positive image for the school.

If your school would like to start up a Junk funk band,

the first thing to do is to start collecting junk! Materials such as barrels, pipes, plastic bottles, and tins can all be used to create your band. The Severn Trent site on Anstey Lane, Leicester is a great resource where you can collect some of these materials.

We also have an eight session programme we could support you with if you are interested in setting up a junk funk band, contact your EMAS Officer for more information.

## Schools' news

### Judgemeadow

Over the next three years all EMAS schools will be given the opportunity to take part in a city wide project aiming to plant 10,000 trees where free trees are offered to schools to plant in their school grounds or in public green spaces. The first planting took place at Judgemeadow Community College in February. Over a week staff and students relentlessly dug 160 large holes for the trees and sunny weather made it enjoyable for everyone who took part.



### Holy Cross Primary

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School have been working hard to rejuvenate an area of woodland on the edge of their playing field. The woodland, which is home to bats, foxes and many birds, is an ideal location for outdoor learning. A small group of KS1 pupils have been visiting the woodland on a regular basis to take part in 'Forest School' activities such as bug hunting, tree climbing and natural crafts. See the 'Your Questions Answered' section for more information about Forest Schools.



### Big Switch Off

A number of EMAS schools took part in this year's Big Switch Off campaign where schools measured their electricity use on two consecutive Fridays aiming for the biggest reduction in usage. Overdale Juniors won with a massive 56% reduction in electricity use! Anne Scott, EMAS coordinator there, said "the whole school really did take part, many teachers turned off lights and opened the blinds for the whole day, did not turn on the projector or Interactive Whiteboard and didn't use laptops excessively and made sure they were off whenever not in use. Even in assembly they had the lights off and sang a song which they already knew well so they didn't need to use the OHP!" Could you make savings like these in your school?

# Diary Dates

Don't miss out on the **EMAS Celebration Event 2009**. The event will run over four days starting on Monday 8th June. More information coming soon.

## **National Bike Week: 13th - 21st June**

Lets see how many people we can get cycling to school, adults included!

**CPD Training:** If there are topics you would like to see included in future sessions then please contact your EMAS officer.

# The EcoHouse

The Eco House, a flagship project of Groundwork Leicester & Leicestershire, is hosting three events this summer. Look out for information on exciting summer activities in future EMAS newsletters.

**Seed Sowing:** 27th May, 2:30pm-4:30pm  
Learn all about how seeds grow. Plant a seed to take home and watch it grow!

## **Green Leicester Exhibition:**

1st April - 28th June.

Find out how adults and children living in Leicester and Leicestershire have made their homes and lives more environmentally friendly and how you can do the same.

## **Life After Oil Exhibition:**

1st July - 30th Sept.

We depend on oil for almost everything. How will our lives look different when costs rise as it starts to run out? How might they be better and how can we get ready? Discover a positive vision for a future without oil.

Call the eco house on 0116 254 5489 or e-mail [charmon@gwll.org.uk](mailto:charmon@gwll.org.uk).

Showhome Admission: £2.50/adult, £1.50/child. £6.50/family.

# Your Questions Answered....

## What is a Forest School?

A Forest School is when a small group of children visit a woodland area on a regular basis for a minimum of 6 weeks. They engage in a wide variety of activities which encourage team work and a respect for nature.

## Do I need a woodland for Forest School activities?

Certain activities such as tree climbing require mature trees, but you can do some Forest School activities in any outdoor space. The main aim is to get children engaging with outdoor spaces on a regular basis.

## Where can I learn more about Forest Schools?

Visit [www.foresteducation.org](http://www.foresteducation.org) or [www.forestschools.com](http://www.forestschools.com) or speak to your EMAS Officer.

## Did you know?

The world population has grown by more than 2.5 times in the past 55 years from 2.5 billion in 1950 to 6.45 billion in 2005.

Global energy demands are predicted to rise by as much as 60% in the next 20 years because of this population growth and the continued economic development of many countries - but this is incompatible with stopping climate change.