



# EMAS

SUMMER  
2008

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



## Pedal Power

Pupils and teachers at Green Lane Infant School are thrilled with a fabulous new outside learning space for their pupils which has been developed with the help of Education Officer, Jade Burrows.

The interactive Foundation Stage play area incorporates themes of safe community, sustainability and learning through play.

Cross-curricular activities and themes help the children to explore every part of sensory experience.

Undoubtedly, the highlight for many of the children is the two brightly coloured, new static LED pedal power bikes, which take pride of place.

Designed by Simon Brocks of community cycle enterprise, Cyclemagic, the pedal bikes are linked to a display board showing household electrical appliances.

The children hop on, pedal as fast as they can and, having

generated enough electrical energy, will see household appliances light up on the board.

Head teacher, Kathryn Broadhurst, who initiated the project said, "We are delighted with the new learning area. The children queue up to use the pedal power bikes. They are great for our pupils to enjoy and this activity keeps them healthy and fit as well. What a fabulous learning tool."

The playground also includes textured plants, a cycle track, an all-weather play court, an exciting cave dwelling with a bridge over the top, a brightly coloured wall mural and a covered, circular seating area.

The project has been planned and designed through whole school collaboration and overseen by enthusiastic and talented building contractor, Nigel Robinson.



## A word from your team...

### EMAS & Ofsted

This year, Ofsted have begun assessing school delivery of Education for Sustainability and how schools are addressing the national sustainable schools framework at all levels of the Campus, Curriculum & Community.

This has been carried out through your individual school self-evaluation forms & S3 document as well as during inspections.

This is in line with the government's target of all schools becoming Sustainable Schools by 2020.

As an EMAS school you have the opportunity to be at the cutting edge of education for sustainable development. For information contact your EMAS officer and visit [www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools).

EMAS in schools - Inspiring Schools  
To Take Positive Environmental Actions



## The Phoenix Cycle Ride

For the third year running, more than a hundred primary school children celebrated the start of summer cycling in Leicester with a ride to the Phoenix Arts Centre in the city.

The children have recently undertaken cycle training with Groundwork and Bike It, to help them gain skills and confidence in making short journeys from their homes.

Schools who took part included; St Patrick's Catholic School, Queensmead Community Primary, Abbey Primary, Knighton Fields Primary and

Wolsey House Primary.

The children were rewarded with entertainment at the Phoenix Arts Centre, which included stunt bike demonstration, a cycling musician, and a film show.

Anna Singleton, Groundwork Cycle Instructor, who led one of the rides, said "Its always great to see the children putting their new cycling skills into practice".

With more than 60 miles of safe, signposted cycle routes in the city, cycling is a great way of getting around.

Changing short journeys from car to bike will have many advantages for your health and the environment.

It doesn't have to be expensive to go cycling. If you are interested in getting a good quality second hand bike, visit **Bikes 4 All** in Queen Street, Leicester.

For information on cycling contact the City Cycling Officer on 0116 223 2114 or visit [www.bikes4all.org.uk](http://www.bikes4all.org.uk)  
[www.bikefilmfestival.org](http://www.bikefilmfestival.org)  
[www.cyclingengland.co.uk](http://www.cyclingengland.co.uk)  
[www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

### Did you know?

10 bikes can be parked in the space of one car.

Cyclists breathe in less pollution from traffic than car drivers.

On average, cyclists live two years longer than non-cyclists.

# Schools' news

## New College & Marriot Hotels

On the 31st of March, 80 Managers from the Marriott Hotel Group descended on New College Leicester to help with an environmental make-over of the school grounds as part of their 'Spirit to Serve' initiative. This also included a £2000 donation towards tools and materials.

The group worked tirelessly and transformed an unused quad area to include growing areas, composters, a pond and seating. The area is now being integrated into the curriculum.

## Kestrels Field Primary School

Kestrels Field Primary School have received funds from the Ken Chamberlain Trust; Year of Food and Farming; and Healthy Schools to help develop a growing area in their school grounds. This area will be a practical learning tool that helps children to recognise where food comes from, how it can be grown locally, and the benefits of encouraging wildlife to gardens. The school is also going green with brand new cycle shelters funded by the School Travel Plan.

## Allotment Visit

Year 3 at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School have paid a visit to the EMAS allotment to learn how to grow their own fruit and veg. The visit was a great introduction to the 'Growing Plants' science topic which the class are studying this half term. If you would like to book a visit to the EMAS allotment please contact your EMAS Officer.



## Ashes to Edges

Overdale Junior's wanted to make raised beds using sustainable materials. We got in contact with nearby Knighton Park. They wanted some Ash saplings coppiced in a spinney area so children from the EMAS club walked over and harvested a crop of long Ash poles. They then wove these into a circle, with some hazel stakes, to create a beautiful raised bed centrepiece to their new growing area.



# Dates for your Diary

## Continual Professional Development Training

23rd Sept Action Planning, Evidence & Ideas  
14th Nov Preparing For An Audit

(Further details on CPD training will be sent out closer to the time. If there are topics you would like to see included in future sessions then please contact your school's EMAS officer.)

## EMAS Verification Celebration

Dec - dates tbc

## Useful Resources

### Climate change and the curriculum.

[www.bbc.co.uk/climate](http://www.bbc.co.uk/climate) is a useful website with resources and games suitable for key stage 2 & 3 on the topic of climate change.

Climate change and water workshops, as delivered at the EcoHouse, are also available for delivery in school. Contact your EMAS officer for information.

**Scrap Store** Everyday business waste that is suitable for reuse in community play and education is available from this innovative project. For details contact: Tel / minicom: 0116 223 2056 or E-mail: [childrensresourcecentre@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:childrensresourcecentre@leicester.gov.uk)

## Your Questions Answered....

### How can we keep cool without making climate change worse?

Energy for air conditioning creates high carbon emissions but there are lots of more interesting alternatives:

Planting climbing plants outside on trellises keeps walls cooler in the sun (and warmer in the winter). Deciduous climbers around windows block out summer sun but allow light through in the winter once they have dropped their leaves.

Planting trees and plants around the school not only cools through shading but also through the evaporative effect.

A solar fountain or pond cools the air.

Awnings over windows block high summer sun but allow light through from morning, evening and winter sun that is lower in the sky.

Opening high windows on the south side and lower windows on the north creates a through-draft of cooler air.

Putting solar film on windows blocks some heat from the sun and painting roofs and outside walls light colours will reflect rather than absorb heat.

### Top Tips - Summer Parties

If you're organising a party at home or at school, try to choose fair-trade juices or get UK grown apple/pear juice. How about UK grown produce such as strawberries and cream or organic cheese? If you have time, you could even make your own lemonade or ginger beer, cake, biscuits or pizza. For more ideas visit [www.eattheseasons.co.uk](http://www.eattheseasons.co.uk) or take a trip to your local farm shop.

