



*Heatherlands Primary School  
Borough of Poole Schools' Environment Award  
2017-18*



## Context

Last year we were successful for the second time in achieving the gold award, and we hope to replicate that success this year! This year we have tried hard to ensure that every child in the school has contributed to the award in order to allow each child to have ownership of the award and take pride in a whole school achievement. We have a very keen eco-council who have led the way, modelling good practice to the rest of the school. We have also encouraged adults to take part, including walk to school week and battery recycling. Our school grounds have been further developed, with additional Forest School provision taking place. This has had both positive and negative effects, as it has enabled us to offer the opportunity of child-led, nature-based learning to every child in the school, and also has given us an opportunity to look at our site usage due to increased erosion of the forest area.

Miss Smith & The Eco Council

## Section 1: Natural World

### Action 1.1 – Go on a minibeast hunt

Year 1 went on a minibeast hunt with the RSPB! We looked at all the different places that minibeasts like to live and found out that our school is really good for wildlife!



Year 5 also worked with the RSPB and carried out a Bio Blitz. We found so many species of different minibeasts, and even found some spiders with egg sacs! We had to be very careful handling these.



## Natural World

### Action 1.3 – Design a minibeast with super powers

Year 6 got to be very creative and came up with their own minibeasts with super powers! They linked this to their science and history learning all about evolution and Darwin, by looking at how giraffes had evolved to survive in the wild.

It was interesting to see the properties they think that a minibeast will need to survive in the future – quite a scary concept!

## Natural selection – the survival of the “fittest.”

How long necks evolved in giraffes.

What would happen to the giraffes with shorter necks?

**Discuss.**

Some individuals born happen to have longer necks due to genetic differences.

Reproduction →

Individuals pass on their traits to next generation.

Natural selection →

Reproduction →

Over many generations, longer-necked individuals are more successful, perhaps because they can feed on taller trees, and pass the long-neck trait on to their offspring.

## Natural World

### Action 1.4 – Have a lesson outside

#### **Forest School this term**

Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 have been busily enjoying forest school sessions in the afternoons this year. We have been out in sunshine and showers and even out in the snow! Every day we look for signs of spring and look for changes in the nature in and around our site. We often see robins and squirrels and lots of signs of foxes! Year 5 children enjoyed using natural resources they found around them, together with clay, to make some of the creatures which live in our forest school site. These included birds, hedgehogs, squirrels, foxes, snails, centipedes and owls. The children have been building and improving their own dens and shelters, using tarpaulins, ropes and clips. They found 'y' shaped sticks are very useful! Children have been learning about fire safety and have been using flint and steels to learn how to light fires. They have been using the fire in our fire circle to toast marshmallows – s'mores are always very popular! We have also been using the fire to make hot chocolate and to pop our own popcorn. Children have been making pictures out of natural things they have found around our site and have practised using compasses to find North, South, West and East and discussed why this is an important outdoor skill. The children all agreed forest school is fun and we have all discussed how we develop all the school values through our forest school sessions.

#### **Some things some children have said are...**

'Wow, I didn't know I could do that!'

'This is amazing!'

'You've got to believe in yourself haven't you Mrs Quinn, then you'll be able to do it won't you?'

'Look, we've made our own playground!'

'If we jump up and down we can keep ourselves warm.'

'Look, I've found a tiny little sprout', showing me a tiny little leaf bud which was just opening!

'These s'mores are delicious, can we do forest school every day?'



## Waste & Recycling

### Action 2.3 – Survey your school's landfill bins

Our eco-team were concerned with how much went into our bins, despite a big push on recycling. Therefore, we decided that we would set up a battery recycling facility in the main entrance. We sent around boxes for each child to collect their batteries in, and lots of staff are also taking part! We are hoping that this will also have a positive impact on families recycling more at home and not sending to landfill if not necessary.



### Action 2.4 – Survey recycling facilities available

The Eco-Council conducted a survey of recycling bins in the school last year, and so this year we have been encouraging each class to fill their boxes! Each Friday they go round the school and empty the boxes, with the help of our site manager, Mr Coleman.

In Year 5, we held a recycled clothing fashion show, which highlighted just how much of our household waste can be recycled!



### Action 2.5 – Discuss the dangers of land-filling waste

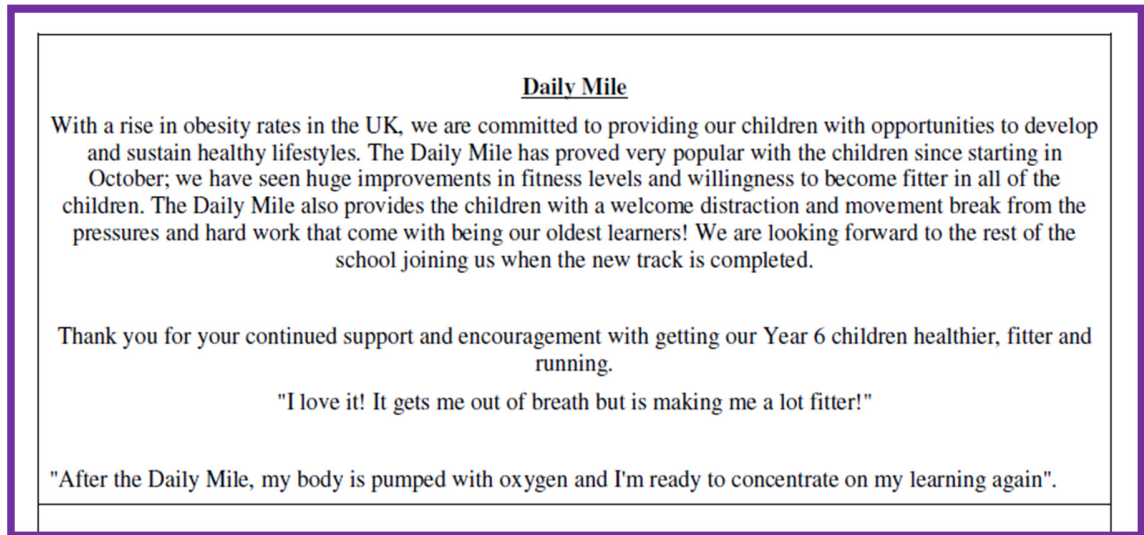
We were hoping to visit the household recycling facility in Poole, but trips have been suspended this year. We did however look in Year 5 at how our waste is disposed of, and the dangers that can be caused to the environment in both our country, and lesser economically developed countries where landfill is over-used. We then looked at the devastating impact of plastics in our oceans, and Year 5 held an activity day on World Oceans Day on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

## Healthy Living

### Action 3.1 – Take part in a healthy activity

This year, children in Years 5 and 6 have started taking part in the Daily Mile initiative. Every day, in the afternoons, they run around our daily mile route outside. Children have reported feeling fitter, more motivated and it is also an opportunity to see them motivate and encourage their peers.

Here is an extract from our newsletter to parents:



Year 1 also did a walk from school to Bournemouth beach, as part of their healthy lifestyle theme.


Furthermore, our school football team made it to the finals this year – we were all very proud of their efforts!




## Healthy Living

### Action 3.3 – How much exercise does your class do?

Year 5 also took part in a class 'team marathon' in support of one of our teachers who was taking part in the London Marathon, and also to raise money for Sports Relief. We raised a huge amount of money and supporting each other was a highlight of the year! We looked at how much exercise our classes would do on a 'normal' week compared to our marathon week!



**ocean**  
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**Heatherlands**  
Primary School

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**Headteacher: Mr C Malone**  
**Deputy Head: Mr J Churchill**

**Sports Relief – Year 5 Marathon!**

Dear parents,

This year for Sport Relief, each Year 5 class will run a marathon! Each class will be split into teams of 5 and share the running between them. In class, we will be designing a team name, a team poster and devising a plan - who is running how many loops (5 - 6 each; 28 in total as a team). They will be given a grid to keep track of their completed loops, then after the last loop is completed they can ask the adults for their time before cheering on the rest of the runners.


We are placing a real emphasis on supporting each other and encouraging teamwork through this activity. We are also linking this work into our JIGSAW PHSE curriculum and have been looking at children who live in situations less fortunate than ourselves. This activity will therefore be run as a sponsored activity linked to Sports Relief and the children will all be given a sponsor form to raise money for their efforts. This is voluntary.

The children can wear sports kit for this event. It will take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. |


The children will be bringing their sponsor forms home with this letter. Thank you very much for your continued support, we hope the children enjoy the challenge!

Yours sincerely,

Year 5 Team




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SCHOOL GAMES  
BRONZE  
award

## Healthy Living

### Action 3.4 – Survey your nearest open space






Year 4 carried out a survey of the recreation ground near our school. They were very concerned that often older children cause trouble at the recreation ground, and they wanted more adults and/or PCSOs to patrol the area. Also, they wanted the monkey bars to be lowered, to make them more accessible.


Storage

**3.4 Open Space Tally Chart**


Think about who uses the open space and what makes it special. Can it be improved for people and wildlife?

Name of open space	Have you been here before?	What are your favourite things?	What don't you like?	What improvements could be made?
Branksome lee	25 children.	Has a fair football goal	Uncleaned dog's mess	Toilets to be open + cleaned regularly.
		- parts of summer	Monkey bars too high	lower monkey bars.
		- Seeing birds and nature	Toilets - can't always use	More bins to avoid litter
		- Hosts different clubs		More equipment
		- Park		,



**Schools' Environment Award**

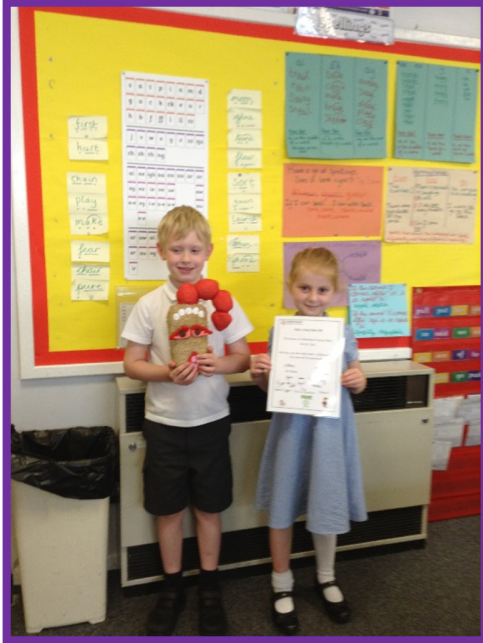


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## Transport

### Action 4.3 – Walk to School Week

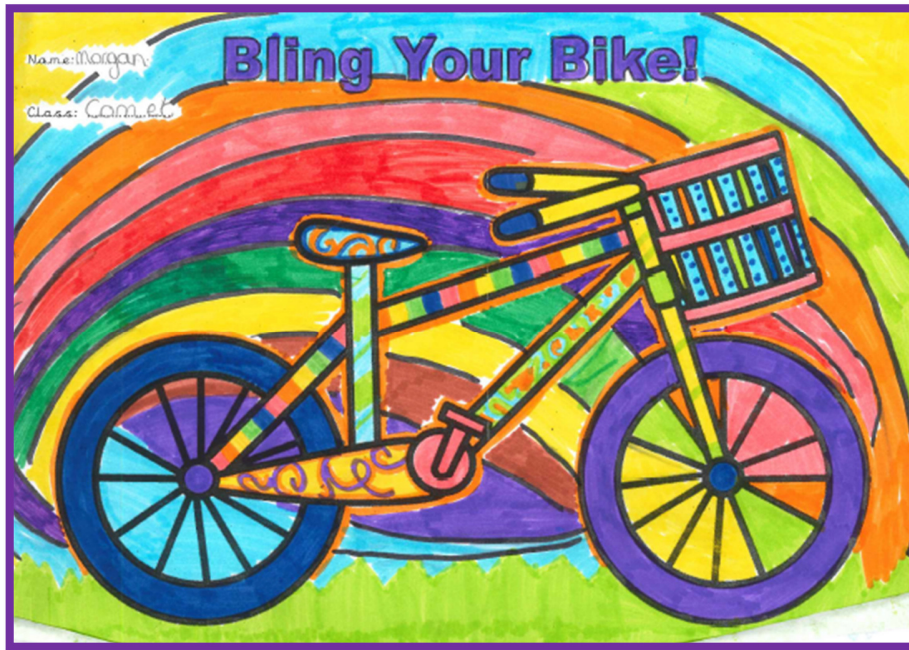
As a school, we took part in Walk to School Week in May this year. Each class took part in a competition and there were winners from KS1 and KS2. We encouraged children to park a little further than usual away from school, to walk the last part with their adults. This also reduced congestion in the local area at peak times around the school. We were given some Weetabix plushies from our local Tesco store as prizes.



## Transport

### Action 4.4 – Bling Your Bike Competition

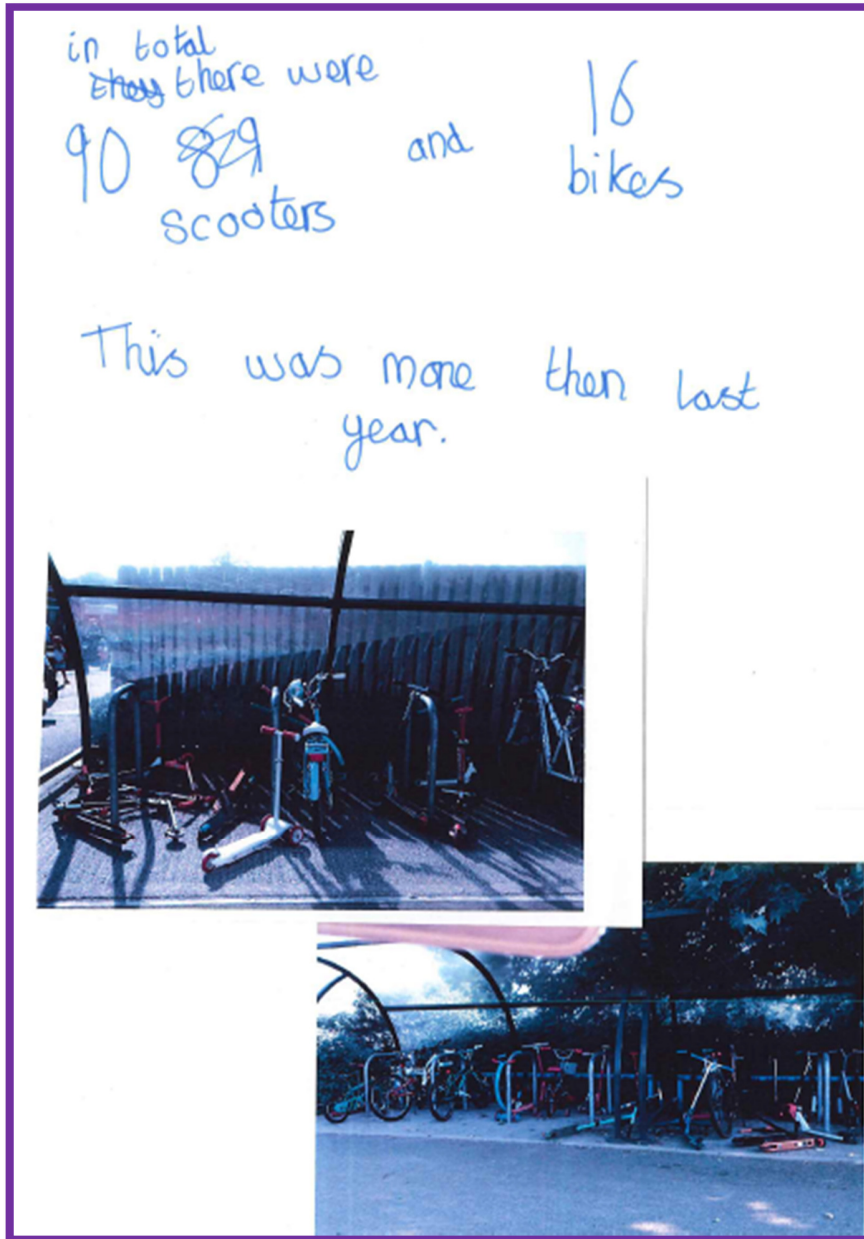
Our Pupil Voice group, Heatherlands Voice, launched a competition to the whole school, inviting children to 'Bling Your Bike!' Children were encouraged to decorate their own bike and send in a photo, or they could decorate a picture of a bike. The children in Heatherlands Voice had a tough job on their hands trying to choose a winner! Here are some of the best entries so far...



## Transport

### Action 4.5 – Bike and scooter survey

Year 4 children carried out a survey of how many scooters and bicycles we had in our school storage facilities.



## Litter

### Action 5 – Explain the risks of litter to marine life

As part of their theme, Year 3 have been looking at wildlife that live in our oceans. They have read the book, "Into the Sea" and explored how turtles rely on the oceans and beaches to survive in some parts of the world. They have also researched into the problems of excessive plastic in our oceans and the terrible impact that this can have.

*Fast in the Sea, Slow on the Sand*

It is a difficult and delicate venture for a sea turtle to leave the ocean and lay her eggs on land. In the exposed setting of sand and shallow water, things can go wrong for the turtle, her eggs or hatchlings.

Centuries ago, settlers, explorers, and pirates landed on New World beaches and discovered the turtle nesting sites. They ate turtle eggs, grabbed the slow, plodding females as they crossed the sand, and caught turtles that came up for air or basked on top of the ocean. Turtles were flipped on their backs and stacked alive on ship decks until fresh meat was needed by the cook. It didn't take long for the population of sea turtles to decline dramatically.

There are other problems for these reptiles. Some turtle eggs are crushed by vehicles on beaches, while others are eaten by dogs, raccoons, jaguars, and snakes. Hatchlings get caught by birds, crabs, and fish, and larger turtles are killed so that fancy items may be made from their shells. And then there are the many turtles that die in fishing nets or after swallowing plastic or other debris in the ocean.

Today sea turtles and their eggs are protected by law, but they still face the loss of their nesting places. Many resorts, homes, and hotels have been built on nesting beaches. Still, turtles return to these beaches and lay eggs if they can find stable, moist sand above the high-tide mark. If the turtles hatch, they can be confused by all the lights around them and may crawl toward the brightness of a resort or highway instead of the sea.

There used to be millions of sea turtles, and now there are only several thousand. However, by working to protect nesting sites, provide safe care for the eggs, and establish new nesting beaches, people hope to dramatically increase the number of turtles in the sea.



Leatherback  
74 inches



Green turtle  
49 inches



Loggerhead  
47 inches



Flatback  
39 inches



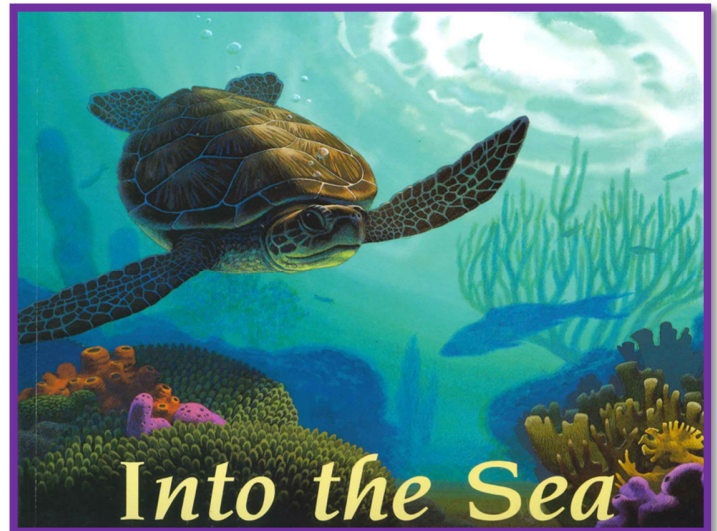
Hawksbill  
35 inches



Kemp's ridley  
30 inches



30 inches



## Litter

### Action 5 – Litter pick

Every child in the school has taken part in a litter pick as part of their Forest Schools sessions this year. Our eco-councillors have also done half termly litter picks at lunchtimes and have been appalled by the amount of litter all over the school site! They have worked with Mr Coleman to encourage children to put litter in the school bins provided and to recycle wherever possible. They collect the recycling on a weekly basis from the whole school.

## Litter

### Action 5.5 Make a construction out of litter

Year 5 used their DT skills to design and make articles of clothing (complete with accessories!) for their recycled fashion show in November. We invited the parents to come and watch, and showed them the work we had done learning about what happens to our rubbish, and how much of it can actually be recycled and re-used.



## Section 6: Blow Your Trumpet

### Bronze - Green Team badges

Our eco-team all had a go at designing their badge and then took a vote on their favourite design. Sadly, we didn't win the Borough's prize draw, but we are really excited that the design has been made into a real badge and we wear them proudly every day on our school uniform



### Silver – Assemblies

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, Year 5 held an assembly to launch World Oceans Day. We discussed the problems of plastic in the oceans and then carried out project work in classes to see how we as individuals could make a difference and improve the oceans for the wildlife for whom this is their home. The Heatherlands Voice children also held an assembly about the Bling Your Bike competition, and Walk to School Week.

## Gold – School newsletters and website


We are now on Twitter and Facebook, and our Forest School work and Eco-team achievements make regular appearances in our school newsletter!

We have also been featured in our Pupil Voice newsletter, and our School Values SMSC newsletter. See below:


### School Newsletter

Year 5

Year 5 have had fun researching all about the 5 oceans of the world today on World Oceans Day (8th June every year). We have had an assembly where we learnt some devastating statistics about how much plastic is in our oceans, and how much damage it can cause. We also then looked at how we as individuals, and the large




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multi-national companies in the world, can make a change and try to help reduce the amount of plastic waste that is found in our oceans and on our beaches.

We have researched into the 5 major oceans, and also looked at the different types of wildlife that can be found at different depths in the ocean. We will be encouraging out families to use less plastic when we get home!

In addition, we talked about Shark Awareness Day, which is on 14th July. We discussed how these creatures are often misunderstood and misrepresented in the media and how we can take care of them as well as the turtles, jellyfish and dolphins etc.

# The Heatherlands Choice



## What has Heatherlands Voice been up to?

Last month, the Heatherlands Voice visited the council chambers and we were given a tour by Jane Newell (a council member). After that, we had a debate about what should be changed in Poole. Our main topics were council tax and we debated police numbers in the area as in some places we felt there is not enough safety. When we talked about council tax, we debated whether the price should be lowered or if it should stay as it is. We really enjoyed finding out how our local council runs.



## What is your favourite sports activity and why?

I really like watching the ball in tennis.

(Ava—Year 1)

Tennis because I like hitting the ball.

(Layton—Year 1)

Football because you can play goals.

(Lucas—Year 2)

Gymnastic because I feel I can do anything!

(George—Year 3)

Playing dominoes—getting people out!

(Abbi—Year 4)

What I love the Year 5 Manchester!

(Max—Year 5)

Tennis, I like playing with a partner.

(Evan—Year 6)

## House Point Updates

Congratulations to Andrew house for collecting so many points!

David	George	Andrew
999	1039	1125

We look forward to seeing you wearing one blue item of your choice on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

## Bling Your Bike Competition

In this competition you will need to... well bling your bike! There are some amazing prizes up for grabs, such as Westabix plushies, kindly donated by Branksome Tessa. You can win by either designing a bike on a template, or blinging your own bike and taking a photo! Make sure you ask your parents first! Good luck and be creative with it, let your mind run free! Bring your entries to Galaxy Classroom before 25th June 2018.



## Walk to School Week

Have you ever wanted to save the world? Well you can now! The Eco-Council want you to walk, cycle, scoot, or use public transport to get to school. Your teacher will ask you each day to say how you travelled to school. The class who score the highest will win a Westabix plushie as their healthy class mascot!



## Quiet Area

Do you want to spend time with your friends but quietly? Coming soon—a quiet area for reading and colouring. This could be for you. Thank you to George in Year 2 for this suggestion.



## Sporting Updates

It is now the end of the football league. Well done to the football team for getting through to the final! However, that is not the only sport occurring. We also have a netball team, triathlon club and a multi-sports team. Some of these players are taking part in a cricket tournament soon. Sports Leaders are also progressing. Lunchtime activities now include football, parkour, tag rugby etc for all year groups on different days. There will also be ping pong!



## Puzzles



In your class, have a go at solving these anagrams!

sanhteeerldh

sovhelwatcoolekk (+ words)

margsona

## Eco Schools Update

**This term the eco-council has set up a battery recycling facility in school!**

Every child in school has been given a recyclable cardboard box to take home, fill up and return to school. We have also carried out a survey of how Year 5 children travel to school. Additionally, every fortnight we collect all the paper recycling from the classes and empty it into our main recycling bins with the help of Miss Smith and Mr Coleman. We have also designed our own eco-team badges and these have been entered into the Borough of Poole's Environment Award Competition where we could be in with a chance of winning a scooter pod for our school!

