

Green News Edition 12, Spring 2014.

Dear Parents / Guardians,

	<p>Scoil Náisiúnta An Dea Aoire The Good Shepherd National School Whitehall Road, Churchtown, Dublin 14.</p> <p>Tel: 01-2989475 Fax: 01-2960267 www.goodshepherd.ie email: school@goodshepherd.ie</p>	 <p>Green-Schools</p>
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To cut down on paper use this year, we have reduced the number of green newsletters by incorporating them into our school newsletter. However, as there is a lot of information to share with you this term, we needed to do a special Spring issue.

Review of Green Flags

On the 18th of March we had a review of our four green themes Recycling, Energy, Water and Travel and also entered an application for the Green Home Flag. Can your child remember the 3 R's Reduce Recycle Re-use? Do you know where the recycling area is in the school - for batteries, stamps and printer ink?

Online Jobs for You!

As you probably know, our school is participating in the An Taisce environmental programme called Green Home. In order to renew the Green Flags that we worked so hard for, we need you to become a member on line and complete the pre and post green home surveys under the Good Shepherd NS tab. We need as many householders as possible to complete the surveys. Go to www.greenhome.ie Click on "Register" on the right hand side of the page. Select "Dublin" from the County drop down menu. Select "Good Shepherd National School" from the drop down list. Click on "Create New Account". Then complete the survey as much as you can. Our application is due on the 21st of March and it would be fantastic if you could help.

Green Schools National SOW Day

SOW stands for Scoot on Wednesday. We had a good response to our request for pupils to scoot, walk or cycle to school on the 12th of March. We kept a record of how the children travelled and scooted to school on National SOW Day.

Workshops

The **Vernier Hydrogen Fuel Cell Workshop** took place with 5th and 6th classes on January 31st this year. Children learnt about hydro electricity using a model car. Another energy workshop will take place for the senior classes in June. Our children really enjoy these workshops on energy efficiency and environmental awareness where they participate in various experiments and activities. They are hosted by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland.

Signs of Spring

Well done to all those children who spotted the lovely daffodils that have sprung up after our rainy February. They logged the locations on a map displayed on the Green School Notice Board, and noted the dates when first seen.

National Spring Clean Tidy Schools

We are delighted to tell you that Good Shepherd N.S will be entering the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Tidy Schools Community Competition again this year. The neatness and appearance of our school will be judged among other things, including our initiatives to support wildlife in our school. We expect to do even better this year than before, as all the unsightly graffiti has been removed from the school's periphery. Many thanks to all those who continue to make our school, including our school pond and patio area, a beautiful place.

Green School Projects

Our Green School Committee are busy preparing for our "Action Day". This will involve making green projects to help us recall and re-visit the themes with which we have been involved. One project is the building of a mini-compost bin which was completed by John in Second Class. These, along with some photos and videos of past green school initiatives will be exhibited for all to see at our Silver Jubilee Launch on April 2nd 2014.

Water Poster Competition

A Samsung Galaxy phone is the top prize for the winners of the Green School Water Poster Competition. This year's Green-Schools Irish Water Poster Competition 2014 invites individual students to design a poster which best illustrates the message 'Value Water'. The competition is being run by An Taisce Green-Schools in partnership with Irish Water. Entries need to be single sided and on A3 poster size paper and submitted by post to Green-Schools Irish Water Poster Competition, An Taisce, 5a Swift's Alley, Francis St, Dublin 8 by 4pm Friday the 21st March 2014. Please make sure to include your child's age, class and school. See <http://www.greenschoolsireland.org/competitions/green-schools-irish-water-poster-competition-2014.3249.html> for further details.

Developing our Natural Habitat

As you know we obtained two trees - a Rowan and a Birch from DLRCC to mark National Tree week. We have planted these trees beside the outdoor classroom and in the front area of our school - thanks Noel! Don't forget to have a look, if you get a chance, at our outdoor Mini-beast "hotel" mounted beside the outdoor classroom for little visitors like ladybirds and woodlice.

Fill the Van Recycling Project

Our 'Fill the Van' clothing recycling project is organised for the 28th May. We will have more details nearer the date.

Green School Committee

First and Second Class: Adam, Dee, John and Halima

Third and Fourth class: Conor, Séan, Alice and David

Fifth and Sixth class: Jake Max and Jack

Members of staff including our caretakers Noel and John

Sarah Jackson

Green School Co-ordinator

principal@goodshepherd.ie

Sheila FitzGerald

Remember our code: Bí Glas Bí Glan!