



Happy New Year! Welcome to the winter issue of the Recycle for your Community School Ezine. If you would like to learn more about how our *free* schools programme can support action on waste reduction, reuse and recycling at your school, please contact our Education Officer, Jennifer on Jennifer.cooper@keepbritaintidy.org or visit www.recycleforyourcommunity.com/schools.

Out with the old and in with the new

Hi Everyone, Hannah here. Sadly my time here has been short but sweet as of January I will be heading off on an exciting new adventure to support BirdLife Malta with their education programme. It has been a pleasure to work with the schools I have been involved with and I hope that more will continue to get involved with the programme to reduce, reuse and recycle within their schools. It gives me great pleasure to introduce my replacement Jennifer who will be continuing with the work programme.

Hi there! I'm Jennifer and I am excited to be the new Education Officer for the Recycle for your Community campaign. I have taken over the role from Hannah who has been working hard over the past few months in promoting our message of the 3Rs. I'm really looking forward to meeting pupils and staff and continuing the great progress that has been made so far.

A bit about me, I am a teacher and have recently been working for the Field Studies Council delivering outdoor education in east London and developing lessons for use in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park focusing on the sustainability of the development and its legacy. Prior to this I volunteered for Colobus Conservation, a primate rescue and rehabilitation organization in Kenya, where I revamped their education programmes for pupils and tourists and developed a primary and secondary outreach programme for local schools.

My two passions in life are the environment and teaching, so this job is absolutely perfect for me! I believe in the potential for us all to make positive impacts to create a better and more beautiful environment.

Thank you for your continued support!

Eco Calendar

January 2014:

1 – 8 National Storytelling Week
20 – 31 Big Garden Bird Watch

February 2014:

2 World Wetland Day
10 – 16 Go Green Week
12 Darwin Day
14 – 20 Nestbox Week
15 World Thinking Day

March 2014:

Eco Schools Waste Week
6 World Book Day
14 International Day of Rivers
14 – 23 National Science Week
21 World Planting Day
21 Eco-Schools [Strategy Forum](#)
22 World Water Day

Visit the *events* page on the schools section of our campaign website to find information about local eco events taking place.

Get everyone reducing, reusing and recycling with Waste Week 2014

The next Waste Week campaign will run for the whole of March 2014 – pick the days, week or weeks that suit your school or group best. We have lots of information, lesson plans, assemblies and activities – all linked across the curriculum – that will help make your Waste Week a huge success. Don't forget to sign up on the [website](#) and get in touch if you would like support developing activities in your school.





Eco-Schools Update

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Eco Team has set up a network for Eco-Schools coordinators. The network meets once a term provides a great opportunity for teachers to share ideas and best practise. The next meeting will take place at Beam Primary School on Tuesday 1st April. If you would like to book a place please reply to this email with your name and school.

Newham Sustainable Schools hosted an Eco-Schools event at The Crystal in November. Both teachers and pupils attended the event which included workshops, a tour of Green Flag School St. Luke's, and time exploring the exhibition centre. It is hoped this event will help to inspire the Eco-Schools to work towards the next level of award.

Havering Environmental Education Partnership (HEEP) met in November to plan activities for 2014 which will get more school learning outdoors and thinking about the environment. The group plan to host a teacher training in May and to encourage schools to get involved in running a Bioblitz within their school's grounds. There will also be a public Bioblitz event hosted at Bedfords Park on 8th June.

Two representatives from **Eco-Schools Singapore** visited in December to learn more about how the programme is run and to visit schools in the area to gather inspiration and to plan a visit for a group of students next year. The schools involved are Ripple Primary School and St. Luke's Primary School and the visit will take place in June 2014.

Congratulations to **Ripple Primary School** who have just gained the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, the first school in the borough to do so. This is a great achievement and shows how committed the school are to getting the students involved in becoming environmentally friendly.



Ripple Primary School with visitors from Eco-Schools Singapore

New Year Resolutions

Want to make your school more 'Green'? Here are a few ideas to add to your New Year Resolutions list...

- 1) Organise a [give and take day](#)
- 2) Take part in [Waste Week](#) and other environmental days
- 3) Recycle more – mobile phones, ink cartridges, clothes, spectacles, electrical equipment, batteries
- 4) Sign up to [Eco-Schools](#) – or if you're already involved get the next award by the end of the year
- 5) Organise a zero waste lunch day
- 6) Take part in a [Big Tidy Up](#) event (Recycle for Your Community have litter pickers which you can borrow)
- 7) Run an assembly all about the 3Rs - reduce, reuse, recycle - and looking after the environment
- 8) Get composting (if you're in [Redbridge](#) you can even get a free compost bin & assembly from the council)
- 9) Email your school newsletter to parents and staff to save paper
- 10) Involve others in what your school is doing – invite parents and the community to be involved

Christmas Competition Winners

Congratulations to Branfil Primary School who won our Recycled Christmas Tree Competition! The Eco Team will be awarded £50 to spend on something green for their school.

