



# Sustainability & Nature Actions 2022/23



A brief summary of some of the sustainability actions and initiatives that we have completed in school during the 2022/23 academic year.

## Creation of Eco-committee 2022/23

We started the academic year by holding an assembly to talk about the eco-committee and the commitment that children would require if they would like to join. Each class then had a shortlist of candidates who prepared a speech for their class. They then voted in each class to choose a representative that would become part of the eco-committee.



## Eco Audit and Action Plan - October 2022

Our first task as an eco-committee was to evaluate the school and fill in an audit of the eco work going on. After a few weeks we then created an action plan for the year and an Eco board for all the information.

Action Plan – South Molton Community Primary			
<b>Energy</b>	<b>Goal:</b> 300 Electricity Days each term Light checks and recording system Behaviour system to encourage Responsible links to address install smart meters <b>Check:</b> Current solar panels display Using data of usage to compare Meal with SMI Site manager	<b>Duration:</b> 1 Year – 2022/23 academic year	<b>Monitoring Method:</b> Spot checks Data of usage Staff notices Parent feedback
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>Goal:</b> To increase biodiversity across the school and using the school nature reserve as an example to develop the rest of the school. <b>Plan:</b> Create No Mow areas around school Plant trees and habitat creation Planting native hedges in orchard Creating woodland as centrepiece Planting bulbs and wildflowers Ensuring nature part of curriculum	<b>Duration:</b> 1 Year – 2022/23 academic year	<b>Monitoring Method:</b> School environment audits Recording of wildlife Observations
<b>Litter</b>	<b>Goal:</b> To reduce the amount of litter in the school and local area to raise awareness of littering and to encourage recycling. <b>Plan:</b> New bins around the school & outside Daily litter picks in school Place to store litter pickers and display Recording and displaying litter amounts <b>Check:</b> Local litter pick Rubbish and pick bins on trips Newsletter/posters to stop littering and encourage recycling	<b>Duration:</b> 1 Year – 2022/23 academic year	<b>Monitoring Method:</b> School litter audits recording Community feedback

## Orchard Creation - Nov 2022



We planted 6 new fruit trees to go alongside our existing orchard and planted fruit hedges to give 'The Orchard' area a designated entrance that clearly shows where the area starts.



## Tree Planting - Nov 2022

The eco-committee worked with Jack from North Devon Biosphere to plant 60 trees and 30 hedges on our school field to create a new woodland area in the school.



## Litter Picking - Autumn 2022

We created a schedule of days where an adult would be available at lunchtimes to take volunteers around the school site to litter pick.



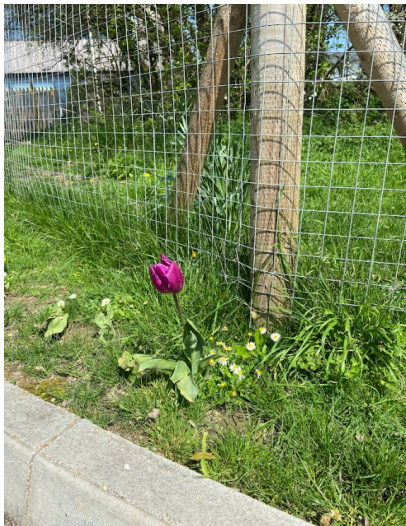
## Environmental Prize Nov 2022



During our autumn No Electricity Day we held our annual Environmental Prize where we awarded two ideas to make our school more eco friendly with certificates and a book token. The school also committed to spending school funds and resources to help bring their ideas to life. The first winning idea was creating more biodiverse areas including the roundabout into a pollinator friendly garden. The second was making our Nature reserve more friendly to animals such as creating bird and bat boxes.

## Autumn No Electricity Day 2022

Each class also planted some bulbs in various places around the school on our No Elec Day. Pictures of some of them flowering later in the year!



## Roundabout Closure at Pick Up/ Drop Off - Autumn 2022

To reduce the traffic at school drop off pick-up and to make it safer for children to walk, cycle or scoot to school we have put a gate in place to limit access during certain hours. This has encouraged more children to walk to school and created a safer and less polluted environment for the children to come to school.



## School Dinner Menu - Jan 2023

We have created a brand new school menu to promote plant based meals and give them priority on the menu. We have also created two completely meat/fish free days with the addition of Fish Free Friday to Meat Free Monday. The menu always puts the vegetarian option first rather than the meat option. We have also changed the names of meal choices to Option 1 (always Veg) and Option 2 (Veg on Monday and Friday) to ensure that the vegetarian choice is not viewed as substandard or not as important as the meat option.

MEAT-FREE MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FISH-FREE FRIDAY
<b>ONE</b> Vegetable Curry (V) with Naan and Pao <b>TWO</b> Roast Potatoes and Buttered Beans (V) with Carrots and Broccoli	<b>ONE</b> Sweet and Sour Vegetable Noodles (V) <b>TWO</b> Beef and Butternut Squash (V) with Carrots and Broccoli	<b>ONE</b> Sweet Potato and Butternut Squash (V) with Carrots and Broccoli <b>TWO</b> Roast Potatoes and Buttered Beans (V) with Carrots and Broccoli	<b>ONE</b> Vegetable Curry (V) with Naan and Pao <b>TWO</b> Roast Potatoes and Buttered Beans (V) with Carrots and Broccoli	<b>ONE</b> Vegetable Mugged (V) with Chips, Peas and Sweetcorn <b>TWO</b> Roast Potatoes and Buttered Beans (V) with Carrots and Broccoli
<b>PACKET POTATO</b> Cheese (V) Bites <b>PACKED LUNCH</b> Vegetable and Tuna Pasta Pot (V) (2.70)	<b>PACKET POTATO</b> Cheese (V) Bites <b>PACKED LUNCH</b> Vegetable and Tuna Pasta Pot (V) (2.70)	<b>PACKET POTATO</b> Cheese (V) Bites <b>PACKED LUNCH</b> Vegetable and Tuna Pasta Pot (V) (2.70)	<b>PACKET POTATO</b> Cheese (V) Bites <b>PACKED LUNCH</b> Vegetable and Tuna Pasta Pot (V) (2.70)	<b>PACKET POTATO</b> Cheese (V) Bites <b>PACKED LUNCH</b> Vegetable and Tuna Pasta Pot (V) (2.70)
<b>DESSERT</b> Fruit Jolly Chocolate Cake (2.40) and Custard (V)	<b>DESSERT</b> Fruit Jolly Chocolate Cake (2.40) and Custard (V)	<b>DESSERT</b> Fruit Jolly Chocolate Cake (2.40) and Custard (V)	<b>DESSERT</b> Fruit Jolly Chocolate Cake (2.40) and Custard (V)	<b>DESSERT</b> Fruit Jolly Chocolate Cake (2.40) and Custard (V)

## No Mow/ Wild Areas - Feb/March 2023



As part of our plan for developing nature on our school grounds we marked out some areas to become 'Wild Areas'. We will monitor the biodiversity and wildlife in these areas.



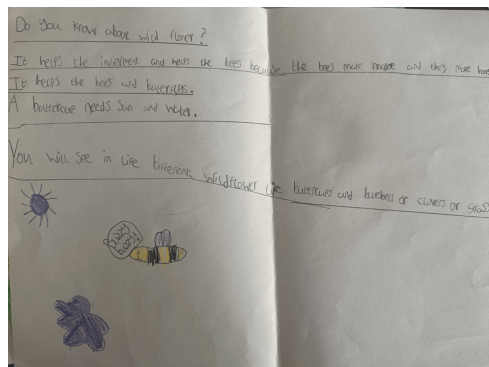
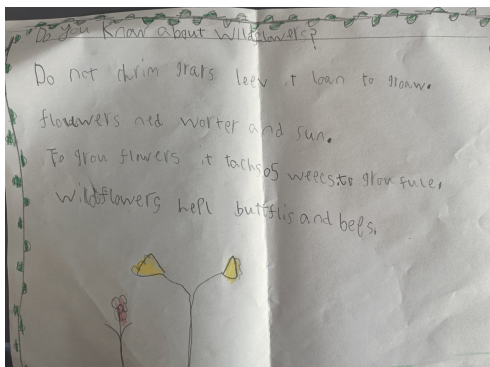
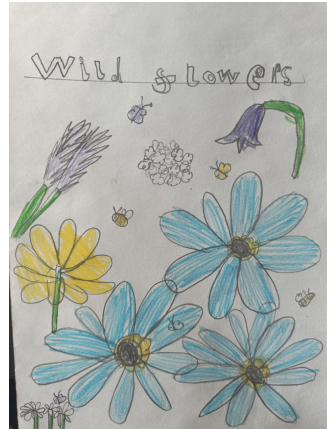
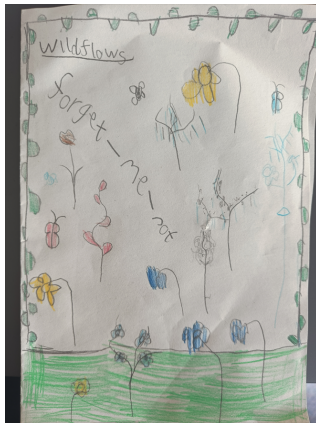
## Fairtrade Fortnight - Spring 2023

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight we had a whole school assembly to introduce the topic. We then had a Year 2 workshop from the co-op group who introduced products and lots of activities. The Eco-committee then investigated what fairtrade products we already use (none) and how we could introduce more. Agreed that all staff tea and coffee purchased by the school would now be fairtrade.



## Spring No Electricity Day - March 2023

EYFS and KS1 spent the morning of our No Electricity Day making and writing booklets on wildflowers, some of which can be seen around our school grounds. They also spent time investigating all the different wildflowers and looked around the grounds to consider what other wildflowers we could encourage and plant.



KS2 children used the No Electricity Day to write persuasive letters to various members of the community encouraging them to sign up to the North Devon Biosphere Nature Declaration. We told them about our declaration and what work we have done in our school to encourage them to sign up and take nature action.

## Eco-committee Swift Boxes - March 2023



The Eco-committee have been working with Fran Sendell who is leading a project to encourage swifts back into the area. They showed her around the school site and found the best place for our brand new swift boxes that will be installed over the coming months. We look forward to encouraging birds and swifts into the school site.

## Walk and Wheels Week - March 2023

The Big Walk and Wheel fortnight was a great success and we had so many children joining in and bringing their bike/scooter to school. At lunch and play times we extended our bike track to include the school roundabout (enabled by the gate installed earlier in the term) which meant children had a really great experience and encouraged more children to bring their bikes.



Sustainable travel increased hugely during the fortnight and we now need to work on ways to continue this increase over the summer term. We are considering if it is feasible to permanently extend the bike track to include the roundabout at appropriate times and will consult with children whether this would be well received.

## Creating Wildflower Roundabout - April 2023

As part of the Environmental Prize 2022 winners idea the roundabout has been developed to include a wildflower area with a variety of pollinators to encourage insects, increase biodiversity and make the roundabout look great.



## Sustainable Fashion Swap Shop - May 2023

We ran our second fashion swap shop to encourage parents and the community to avoid buying new but rather recycle and reuse. We plan to have further similar events in the future and a regular second hand uniform stand in school and at events.



### South Molton Community Primary School Sustainable Fashion Swap Shop Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May from 6.30pm – 8.00pm

Do you have items of clothing that you just don't wear and would like to swap them for something you will wear?  
Then come along to our Sustainable Fashion Swap Shop on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May from 6.30 – 8.00pm at South Molton Community Primary School, where you can browse the rails of pre-loved clothing (jackets, jeans, childrens) to refresh your wardrobe and pick up some new clobber in a totally sustainable way.

#### How to join in?

Simply drop any number of good quality, clean clothing in nice condition into our swap shop postbox Mint Vintage (Duke St, South Molton) or into a box when you will receive a ticket for a 'swapable' item of clothing at the event.  
Bring your ticket to the sustainable swap shop and take it to a fabric currency to bag yourself something 'new to you' - all without making a single carbon footprint!

If you just want to donate nice or clean clothing without bagging any more items, that's totally cool with us! If you don't have any swaps all items on the swap entry rails will be available to 'top' for between £1 to £4 (depending on the items).

We need your donations and swapable items before Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May so we can get them looking super on our rails, you can stop off at Mint Vintage Tues-Sat 10-4 or alternatively pop them into South Molton Community Primary School.

Bring your own shopping bag and extra cash for refreshments on the night.  
Please email: [link@southmoltonprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:link@southmoltonprimaryschool.co.uk)



colours - recycled - vintage  
crafting - repair - alteration

### North Devon Biosphere Pledge for Nature Award - May 2023

We received the school award for the Pledge to Nature run by the North Devon Biosphere at the Plough Arts Centre in an evening awards ceremony. This was in recognition of our work around nature and how the school grounds have been developed to support this. What a great achievement for the children at our school! Thank you to Riley, Ruby and Lottie for representing the school so well at the awards



### Reception Rsoemoor Gardens Trip - May 2023

The Reception children in Fernworthy and Dart class enjoyed a trip to RHS Rosemoor Gardens in Torrington. Everyone had a great day exploring the gardens and taking part in the workshop. It was lovely to see so many different types of flowers and vegetables growing, the children have now started growing some vegetables and flowers in their outdoor area.



### Pinbrook Recycling Centre and Energy from Waste Plant Visit - April 2023

The year 4 children really enjoyed their visit to Pinbrook recycling centre and the EfW plant. They learnt about what and where rubbish can be recycled, took part in science activities, played Kahoot and visited the Energy from Waste control room.



## Summer No Elec Day - Morning Wildlife Stories

During the summer No Electricity day children across the school wrote stories inspired by nature. Firstly, children spent time in our wonderful outdoor areas before creating some fantastic writing.

## Summer 2023 No Elec Day - Afternoon Bird Focus

In the afternoon each class completed a survey of birds they could see in the school grounds - we found lots! They then made bird feeders and placed these around the school to attract more birds. Finally, children thought about other ways we could encourage more birds to visit the school.



## Reception Recycling Session - June 2023

[Recycle Devon](#) visited the school for a session on recycling. Fernworthy class were excited to meet 'Pat the Pirate.' We learnt the importance and meaning of the words 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' and discussed how we can help the environment. The children were really enthusiastic and went on to explore the school Nature Reserve and met some toy animals who had been affected by plastic pollution. What a great session where the children learnt so much about helping the environment.





## **Wear it Wild for the WWF - June 2023**

Children and adults made a brilliant effort to 'wear it wild' and raise money for the WWF-UK. It was great fun to see the amazing outfits and discuss in assembly why it is such an important cause that fits in really well with our school value of nature and our work around sustainability.



## **Harvesting Vegetables - June 2023**

The pupils in Avon were able to pick the vegetables they had grown from seeds. Weeks of watering, weeding and glorious sunshine, finally resulted in these magnificent plants and a very good yield of beans! They are learning that you really do reap what you sow!



## **Green Schools Project**

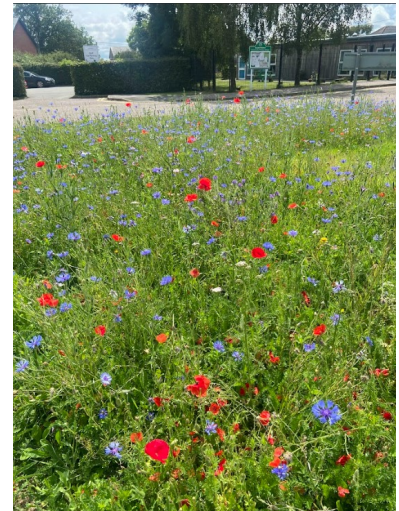
The Eco-committee listened to Landacre class to hear all about the sustainability work they have been doing this year as part of the Green Schools Project. They particularly liked all the ideas that the children had come up with in groups around how to make our school and community more sustainable. As we pass the baton on to next year's eco-committee some of these ideas will be brought to life throughout the next academic year!

## Wildflower planting on roundabout - July 2023

What a fantastic transformation! After winning the Environmental Prize 2022 Noah and family have created an amazing wildflower roundabout that creates a beautiful entrance to the school and a wildlife friendly school environment! Thank you to Noah and his grandad Phillip Lock for organising and creating this along with Griffiths for helping with the cutting of the turf 😊



The school roundabout in July with some amazing wildflower - what a lovely entrance to the school!



## Eco Schools Green Flag with Distinction Award - July 2023



What a great way to finish the year and culmination of an amazing year's work by the Eco-committee. We are very proud to announce that we received a Eco-school Green Flag with distinction (the highest level achievable!). Well done to everyone in our school community who has contributed to this success.