

Tuesday 26th November 2019



Environmental Awareness at Begbrook and beyond



Dear Parents/Carers,

At the first parent forum of this school year we discussed how we can become more environmentally aware at Begbrook and in our wider community. This was an area for discussion that had been raised previously by parents as having a high priority. Mrs Alger Seats is our lead for 'Environmental Awareness' and she used the Forum as an opportunity to share all the steps we have already taken and to gain views on what else we could be doing. Below is a summary of the forum. If you have any further suggestions or would like to become more involved please contact Mrs Alger Seats via info@bpa.cabot.ac.uk.

What are we already doing?

- ✓ As a school, we recycle or reuse cardboard, paper, scrap metal and IT equipment
- ✓ We are in talks with Aspen, who provide our meals, to reduce plastic
- ✓ We are in talks with Churchill, who clean our school, to reduce the use of chemicals in school
- ✓ We have solar panels on our Expressive Arts room roof
- ✓ Mr Conway and Miss Rogerson are running 'Eco club' for KS1 and KS2 children
- ✓ We have started to collect up old pens to recycle with Crayola
- ✓ Our redesigned curriculum offers opportunities for environmental awareness to be taught in context
- ✓ We have an environmental awareness message for children in all our weekly assemblies
- ✓ We recycle all our food waste
- ✓ We have recycling bins in our staff room
- ✓ We hope to soon become a public drop off point for Terracycling so we can recycle crisp packets and earn money for charity
- ✓ Year 5 children are involved in planting a tree for climate change later in November

Suggestions and comments from parents during the forum:

- Any messages to children should be focused on positive steps that can be taken
- Focus on educating children so that they are able to make informed choices
- Opportunities for second hand sales (books, toys, clothes) to help reduce waste
- Tackle idling cars during pick up and drop off times and therefore the air pollution by monitoring air quality and getting children involved.
- Have an environmental awareness day each month or term to raise awareness
- Invite people in who work for renewable energy companies to share what they do and educate children
- Regularly communicate with parents about different walking routes, cycling routes that families can use. Including places to park and walk even if they can't walk the whole way due to the size of our catchment area.
- Get involved with local or national events
- Regular Eco message or update in the newsletter from the Eco committee



What next?

- As part of raising awareness about our environment, we have registered to become an '**Eco School**'. We will be creating an eco committee of children and they will lead any changes they decide to make. More information about this will be sent out soon.
- Following the suggestion to have an '**environmental awareness day**', we are planning our first on **Friday 29th November**. We will be encouraging families to make one small change to help our environment, such as, walk to school, use less plastic packaging in the lunchbox, pick up some litter etc. Look out for more information about this soon.

How can parents get involved?

As part of our Eco committee run by children, we are looking for parents to join. If this is something you are interested in please contact Mrs Alger-Seats via info@bpa.cabot.ac.uk.

Suggestions for future agenda items

- Opportunities for learning outside – both PE and other curriculum areas
- Healthy schools e.g. school dinners, breaktime snacks and curriculum coverage

If you have any suggestions for topics that could be discussed at a Parent Forum please speak with a member of the Principal or email via info@bpa.cabot.ac.uk.

*****Environmental notice*****

Please switch your engines off when you are waiting for your children. An idling engine causes more pollution and can have negative effects on children's health.

Kind regards

Jen Shaw
Vice Principal