



# Sustainable Schools Newsletter

## Welcome

Welcome to the Spring Term Sustainable Schools Newsletter. We hope that you find this a useful resource. If you have any comments or ideas about sustainable school activities, please contact Vikki Pendry (Sustainable Schools AST): [stbarnabas@york.gov.uk](mailto:stbarnabas@york.gov.uk) or Sue Atkinson (Teaching & Learning Consultant, Science School Improvement and Staff Development): [sue.atkinson@york.gov.uk](mailto:sue.atkinson@york.gov.uk). The LA Portal contains further details about events and resources described in this newsletter. Please visit it at [www.yorkla.org](http://www.yorkla.org).

### The LA Portal and Sustainable Schools

The following newsletters are available to browse on the portal. There are others too!

Children's Food Trust January 2013  
Eco-schools November 2012

### Sustainable Schools Steering Group

The Sustainable Schools Steering Group meets once a term to discuss progress and activities around Sustainability in York Schools. The group is made up of representatives from partners across the city who are committed to promoting Sustainable Living. We are looking for more representatives from schools so that we can really get to grips with what further support schools need and what is taking place already that can be celebrated and shared with other schools in our city. If you are interested, please contact Vikki Pendry at [stbarnabas@york.gov.uk](mailto:stbarnabas@york.gov.uk) or Sue Atkinson at [sue.atkinson@york.gov.uk](mailto:sue.atkinson@york.gov.uk).

### Fruit Tracking

York Edible Schools is pleased to announce that they have secured funding for 10 schools to receive free packs of fruit trees. It is hoped that these 10 schools will be linked together in order to provide a 'fruit track' across the city. Each school will receive support to plant their trees successfully and will be provided with a whole school assembly and some class workshops about the benefits of growing our own food. The funding was provided by Transpenine express in association with the Woodland Trust.



### 'Food for Thought' - Askham Bryan College

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013. 3:45pm - 5:30pm

York Edible Schools are running another action packed event aimed at helping class teachers explore how to confidently embed teaching and learning activities about growing and eating our own food, into the curriculum. The twilight session at Askham Bryan College will be an opportunity to meet partners involved in York Edible Schools such as the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Edible York, the Centre for Global Education and the RHS, who will be on hand to share their expertise and offer examples of curriculum activities. There will also be a short tour of Askham Bryan College in order to illustrate some related teaching and learning activities.

To book a place and for further details, please contact Vikki Pendry at [stbarnabas@york.gov.uk](mailto:stbarnabas@york.gov.uk). There is a charge of £10 per school attending.

### Travel Bee

Over 500 pupils from across the city took part in a competition to provide the i-travel mascot with an appropriate name. Yorbee was the winning name chosen by two pupils at Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School. In association with teachers in York schools, i-travel have produced some cross curricular teaching and learning resources to support their existing cycle, pedestrian and scooter training. These resources are aimed at exploring what is available in your local area that can enable sustainable travel. The resource also looks at alternative modes of transport across the world. The Resource pack is bespoke to each school and includes sets of train and bus timetables local to your school as well as sets of maps for local walks and cycling routes.

Further information about this resource will be available at the next Head Teachers briefing on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January. All schools will be contacted during this term to arrange delivery and instructions about how to use the resource.



### Fair Trade Fortnight 2013

Fairtrade Fortnight is from Monday 25 February to Sunday 10 March 2013!

It's time to take a stand for the food we love and the people who grow it. Without our support now, farmers in developing countries face an uncertain future. If you already buy Fairtrade tea then how about putting Fairtrade sugar in your cup with it?

Or if you've swapped your bananas to Fairtrade then how about now exchanging your nuts too?

There are lots resources to download from

[www.fairtrade.org.uk/gofurther](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/gofurther) about the campaign this year including event planners. For further classroom resources that can help you and your pupils explore what 'Fair Trade' is all about, visit [www.fairtrade.org.uk/schools/support\\_resources/](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/schools/support_resources/). The Fairtrade pupil leaflet and activity sheet attached to this term's newsletter might also be a good starting point for you.



### Fair Trade Conference CGE

**'YORKSHIRE SCHOOL'S  
FAIR TRADE CONFERENCE 2013'  
(Teacher and Pupil Conference)**  
and

**'Fairtrade in Yorkshire School Award 2013'**

**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013, 4pm-6pm  
York St John University  
Temple Hall**

Refreshments available from 3.30pm  
16.00 Welcome

16.05 The Vice Chancellor  
16.10 School Presentation-Kirby Hill CE Primary  
16.25 FT Retailer Presentation-Kigali Crafts  
16.40 Teachers' Workshop  
16.40 FT Pupils' Workshops  
17.25 School Presentation-Bootham School  
17.40 Lord Mayor presents the FT 2013 Awards and Global Teachers Awards

This event is organized by  
**Centre for Global Education York  
York Fair Trade Forum  
York St. John University**

**£15 ADMINISTRATION FEE FOR ALL ATTENDING  
SCHOOLS**

For more information please contact-r.gilboy@yorks.j.ac.uk



### Pumpkin Competition

Well done to Park Grove Primary School for designing a winning Pumpkin for a city wide Pumpkin Parade in October 2012. 6 schools took part in the pumpkin parade organised by El Piano. The winning designers were awarded with organic cake making kits and the whole class were provided with an exciting family cook book.



### Big Bang

**Big Bang Yorkshire & Humber 2013  
- Registration Goes Live!**



NYBEP in partnership with SCY is hosting The Big Bang Yorkshire and Humber on Thursday 27th June 2013, 10:00am - 2:30pm at the Yorkshire Air Museum, Elvington, York.

Registration for schools is now open at <http://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/YorkshireandHumber/nearme.cfm> Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to showcase the best of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) projects that your students have been working on this year - or join us to take part in over 30 hands-on activities, including the Solar Boat Challenge. A select number of projects from The Big Bang Yorkshire & Humber will be nominated to present at the National Science & Engineering Competition which is held at The Big Bang Fair in March 2014.

### Lesson Plans Eco Schools

Eco-schools have been working with Ofsted to identify the benefits of Eco-Schools and have launched over 40 [brand new curriculum linked lesson ideas](#) with three annual Calls to action during the last twelve months. The largest of these is 'Switch-Off Fortnight' which attracts over 4,000 participating schools each year.

### Eco-schools tell us: Why are we doing this?

We believe that Eco-Schools are better schools, and we have a growing body of evidence to prove it, for example:

- 80% of Green Flag Eco-Schools received either Good or Outstanding at their last inspection (Source Ofsted)
- Over the last three years participating Eco-Schools have reduced their energy costs and carbon footprint by an incredible 28% (Source Display Energy Certificates)
- That works out at a saving of over £14.7million during the period (Source CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme carbon trading value)



World Water Day 2013

WaterAid and its partners use practical solutions to provide safe water, effective sanitation and hygiene education to the world's



poorest people. World Water Day is taking place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. [www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org) has good classroom resources including powerpoint presentations, games and videos. There are three resources for Primary: Water Around the World; Healthy Living; Splish, Splash Flush. The secondary units are: Women and Water; Human Rights and Sanitation; The Work of WaterAid; Mapping Water.

Free Bzzzing! Teachers' Resource

Anneliese Emmans Dean has created a free Teachers' Resource based on one of the poems in her unique poetry collection *Bzzzing!* Called 'Forget James Bond - make way for Jane Bond', this cross-curricular resource provides inspiration and ideas to help KS2 children learn about bumblebees through poetry, using an extract from my book. The resource can be downloaded for free from [www.thebigbuzz.biz](http://www.thebigbuzz.biz).



The resource is relevant to many aspects of the curriculum, including science (e.g. Life processes and living things, Habitats, Minibeasts), literacy (including choral/oral/performance poetry), sustainability and outdoor learning.

It gives a flavour of how *Bzzzing!* can be used in the classroom and why it has been chosen as a National Insect Week recommended teachers' resource (and children's book).

Switch Off fortnight 2012

21 schools took part in Switch Off Fortnight 2012. This was a tremendous commitment from our city towards thinking about how we can care for our planet by only using the energy that we really need. Schools took part in a variety of ways including adopting 'Switch it off!' monitors, maths lessons that explored how financial and carbon savings that can be made through energy reduction and by welcoming into their school Captain Flash - protector of the world's resources. Schools can save up to 20% of their energy bills by changing behaviours in the building that lead to more effective energy use. That could be a saving of £40 in an average sized primary school over just two weeks. If your school would like a visit from Captain Flash, please contact Vikki Pendry at [stbarnabas@york.gov.uk](mailto:stbarnabas@york.gov.uk). Captain Flash can provide whole school or Key Stage assemblies as well as energy saving workshops to suit each schools requirements.



Students in York take part in Giving Nation

Students at All Saints, York High and Joseph Rowntree have joined more than 200,000 young people across England and committed to give their time, energy and voice to tackle the issues and support the charities that they feel passionately about.

Giving Nation is a curriculum based project run by the education & participation charity the Citizenship Foundation. The project encourages and supports young people to make a difference and shape the world they live in. Schools who register are provided with a seed grant of £50 per class and challenged to use that money to design and deliver a social action project to tackle an issue of their choice.

Keep an eye on what the schools get up to by visiting [www.g-nation.org.uk/g-blog](http://www.g-nation.org.uk/g-blog)"

FFLP receives prestigious Public Health award!

We are delighted to announce that The Food for Life Partnership (FFLP) has been presented with a Health Promotion and Community Well Being Award by the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH). The awards recognise good practice and achievement in the development and implementation of health promotion and community wellbeing strategies and initiatives. Find out more about FFLP at [www.foodforlife.org.uk](http://www.foodforlife.org.uk)



York Rotters Christmas Poster Competition

Well done to Isabel Hampshire, Antonia Dickens and Minnie Crinnion from Elvington Primary who won the York Rotters poster competition. This competition was aimed at encouraging people to compost Christmas rubbish such as balloons, crackers and non-metallic wrapping paper. The winning poster design was posted all over the city in the run up to Christmas and the winning school was awarded a Wormery in order to help them further develop their understanding of the benefits of composting.



Climate Week

Register now for your school to be part of the UK's biggest environmental competition to combat climate change!



The Climate Week Challenge is fun, free and easy to organise.

- Teams of pupils innovate **creative solutions** to climate change.
- Entries judged by [celebrity panel](#).
- Over 130,000 pupils participate.
- Winning ideas include the Water Pebble -designed to save shower water - the Eco-Fridge -powered by sound waves.

Find out more at [www.climateweek.com](http://www.climateweek.com)



Romany Wood concert

UNICEF and a Day of Change

On May 1st this year 14 schools are taking part in an extraordinary concert to promote the important work of UNICEF. Schools are already busy rehearsing the music for 'Romany Wood', a wonderful 40 minute classical work for children's voices, narrator and orchestra, with text by David Carr and music by David Gaukroger. The Guildhall Orchestra will be accompanying nearly 350 young voices. Tickets are available from York Minster Box Office.

UNICEF works in the UK to champion children's rights, win support and raise money for their work with children everywhere. For over 60 years UNICEF has been the world's leading organisation for children, working to help them survive and thrive from early childhood through adolescence. Schools can register online to take part in Day for Change and receive a free fundraising and information pack ([www.unicef.org.uk/dayforchange](http://www.unicef.org.uk/dayforchange)) This year the focus is on hunger and nutrition and how we are helping children to grow up healthy.

NYBEP and Venturefest

**Venturefest 2013** - NYBEP would like to involve Primary Schools in Venturefest 2013 taking place 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at York Racecourse. Is your school working on a project that involves, enterprise, Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths? If so we would like to hear from you? Contact [Yvonne@nybep.org.uk](mailto:Yvonne@nybep.org.uk)

Venturefest Yorkshire is an annual enterprise and technology-related event which is aimed at budding entrepreneurs of all ages. It includes exhibition stands and workshops from businesses and entrepreneurs, as well as a number of activities for students and teachers.

The Big Pedal

The Big Pedal is being run again this year from 28th February - 20th March. This is a national competition run by Sustrans and sees over 800 schools taking part. It is a 'virtual' race where all entries are on line and you can follow your progress. Every cycle and mini scooter trip counts! The competition is weighted so that all schools regardless of size can compete equally. There are now separate categories for small primaries, large primaries and secondary schools. There are many national prizes and York will also be offering their own. Prizes include a visit from a stunt bike display team and a scooter pod for winning schools. Staff bikes count as well as pupils bikes.



Towards a Sustainable York

The Priory Street Community Centre, YO1 6ET  
Sat 26th January, 10am to 3pm

A new event has been added to the annual York Residents Festival, and is taking place on Saturday 26th January. 'Towards a Sustainable York 2013' is open to York residents who want to find out more about what local groups are doing to make York, and the World, a better place. The morning session starts at 10.30am with presentations from a variety of organisations based in the city, and will close around 12 noon. After lunch, from 1 until 3pm, it is hoped that facilitated mini-workshops will lead to new ideas being explored and developed, and connections being made between existing 'Sustainable York' activities.

Free entry, all welcome, accessible venue. Bring your own lunch but free snacks and drinks available all day. This event has been organised by members of York in Transition. Ring John on 01904 422344 or email [sustyork2013@gmail.com](mailto:sustyork2013@gmail.com) for more information.

School Visits to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Garden in Harrogate



RHS Garden Harlow Carr offer free School Visits either, self-guided or led by a member of RHS staff. For more information on the activities available and how to book please visit <http://www.rhs.org.uk/Children/For-schools/School-visits/Harlow-Carr>. The RHS also offer Continuing Professional Development courses open to anyone working with schools, for more details visit <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening/default.aspx>

RHS Campaign for School Gardening - any school registered to the RHS schools campaign will be eligible for free seeds as part of the benchmarking scheme. For more information and to register your school please visit <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening/teachershome/default.aspx>

Waste Week



11-17 March 2013

This year the focus is on the practical things that can be made from unwanted products. There are lots of **new resources and activities** about the science of recycling materials and the importance of reducing waste to spark imaginations. The first 3500 schools to sign up to Waste Week will receive a pack which includes posters, recycled pencils, stickers and much more.

To register for your pack, visit [www.jointhepod.org/campaigns/waste-week/](http://www.jointhepod.org/campaigns/waste-week/).

