

March 2025



Welcome to the **March Sustainable Schools Leicester eBulletin**.

At the end of this week, Jas will be leaving us to take on a new role with the national trust working with community groups down near Devon. As I am sure you will all agree, Jas has been a fantastic member of the team. She's always super positive, willing to get stuck in and has supported many schools over her past year. She will be sorely missed but we wish her all the best moving forwards!

Upcoming events and competitions:

- Grow your own Grub competition – Sign up deadline Friday 28 March
- Big Walk and Wheel virtual assembly – Monday 24 March
- Carbon literacy training – Friday 16 May



*Tiny Forest maintenance session at
Linden Primary School*

Do take care and, as always, if you need any help or support email or contact us.

- Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk
- Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk
- Jasmine.Walker@leicester.gov.uk

Follow us on Social Media

The Sustainable Schools Team have their own social media channels where you can keep up to date with all things related to sustainability in schools.



[EnvEducationLeicester](#)



[EcoSchoolsLCC](#)



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schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools



SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk

Grow Your Own Grub Competition – deadline extended

* If finding a wheelbarrow is a barrier for your school, please let us know and we will provide one for the competition.*



The Grow Your Own Grub competition is back! Schools are challenged to create a 3-course menu themed on a country of their choice, and then grow some of the ingredients required for the menu in a wheelbarrow. The completed wheelbarrows will be displayed at Abbey Pumping Station on Saturday 5 July where members of the public will be invited to vote for their favourite. [Sign up](#) by Friday 28 March to take part. As always, there will be optional training, support and guidance available throughout the competition, so don't be afraid to sign up if you're new this year! We are running an in person information and hands on growing training session at **Hamilton Library 4-4:45pm Tuesday 4 March**. There will be refreshments and free seeds to take back to school.

Carbon Literacy Project

To raise awareness of the climate emergency, we are using the Carbon Literacy Project as a way of accrediting school staff to become Carbon Literate. By 2025, the DfE have said that each school will have a sustainability lead who will have taken part in Carbon Literacy Training. By joining us, you will help put your school ahead of the rest! Our next session is taking place on Friday 16 May 2025 at City Hall from 9am – 4pm. Complete the [eForm](#) to book your space or for more information, contact Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk.

Carbon Literacy Project



The Great Big School Clean 21 March – 6 April

Eco-Schools and Keep Britain Tidy are excited to announce that registration for the Great Big School Clean 2025 is now open!

Joining the Great Big School Clean protects wildlife and helps young people demonstrate just how much they love where they live.

Participating in the Clean is also excellent evidence for your Eco-Schools Green Flag Application. It can be included in your Action Plan as an activity under the Litter topic, or as informing and involving evidence for Step 5.

This year every school that pledges to pick will also receive a free, digital Great Big School Clean resource pack - designed to raise awareness about the impacts of litter and inspire pupils to get involved. Resources include an assembly, printable pupil certificates, and litter bingo sheets.

Sign up [here](#).

Plastic Clever Schools Action Fund

Common Seas is offering grants of up to £500 to help your school become Plastic Clever. Plastic Clever Schools provides everything you need to help your students reduce plastic waste in their schools, communities, and future.

Find out more about how to apply for the grant [here](#).

Join their webinar on Thursday 6th March at 4 pm (GMT) to



- Understand the connections between the ocean, plastics and the climate crisis

- Learn about Plastic Clever Schools and our free resources (including toolkits, lesson plans and assemblies)
- Find out how to apply for up to £500 to support school action.

[**Register now for your free webinar spot.**](#)

Tree Art Competition!

To celebrate the launch of Leicester City Council's new Tree Strategy on Tuesday 1 April 2025, we are holding a competition! Open for any students aged 5 to 18 years old. Art can be in any form but must be tree themed! Think drawings, photos, collages, sculptures.

A photo of each entry needs to be emailed to SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk by Friday 14 March 2025.

Winners will be announced Tuesday 1 April 2025. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will win a gardening gift voucher for their school, and the student will also win a prize. The winning entries will also be displayed and celebrated on Leicester City Council webpage.



Virtual Assemblies

We have one virtual assembly in March! The assembly will run from 1.30-2pm. No need to sign up, just click on the link below on the day. Please note the Earth Hour virtual assembly is now cancelled.

- **CANCELLED** [Earth Hour virtual assembly](#) – Friday 21 March
- [Big Walk and Wheel virtual](#) assembly – Monday 24 March



Holi, Colours of Nature School Live Lesson - WWF

WWF are running a live lesson on Wednesday 12 March, starting at 10am and lasting roughly 45 minutes. It's free to join and if classes can't make it at the time a recording will be sent to everyone registered. One of WWF's staff members Anjali will be speaking about the Holi festival celebrations and traditions and then we will explore how colour is used in different ways in nature (camouflage, danger, attraction etc.).

Here is the registration link:

https://wwf.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g7r3KJEFQMy7M7FCX7ZMCg

British Science Week

British Science Week 2025 full [activity packs](#) are live now!

The free activity packs for British Science Week 2025, which will take place between 7 to 16 March 2025, are available to download now! You'll find activities for children and young people from under 5s to around age 14, and activities for community groups.



The theme for 2025's packs and poster competition is '[Change and adapt](#)', and the packs provide fun and engaging ways to introduce this theme to the children.

The packs, created with the support of UK Research and Innovation, includes a wide range of fun, hands-on activities, and loads of useful information about running [CREST Awards](#).

Road Safety – Free Resources for ages 4-11

Join us for [Brake's Kids Walk](#) on Wednesday 11 June! Take a walk around your school or community and learn important road safety skills.

Free printed resources – [sign up now](#) to access our free 2025 action pack of teaching resources including:

- Lesson plans
- Assemblies
- Activities
- Posters
- Stickers
- Certificates
- And much more!



Printed action packs will be posted out to schools and youth clubs for free on a first-come, first-served basis. Please sign up now to avoid disappointment and include your full postal address. Resources will also be available to download from the Brake website.

Learning through Landscapes Local Schools Nature Grant

The Local School Nature Grants programme is now open to applications until 4 April, 2025. This is available to all schools and early years settings.



All applicants will receive a decision by 2 May, 2025.

With a Local School Nature Grant, you'll have a budget of £500 to mix and match on items from Learning through Landscapes [product catalogue](#). You'll be able to select an [outdoor learning training session](#) from a range of themes. A member of Learning through Landscapes will then deliver an engaging session for your staff for up to half a day. You will be offered a choice of dates, but they do ask that the training is delivered within the funding round. Find out more [here](#).

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel – Registration is open!

We are excited to announce that the registration for Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is open! Each day schools will compete to see who can record the largest proportion of pupils travelling to school actively. The challenge will run from Monday 24 March to Friday 4 April 2025 and we would love for you to join us. Register [here](#).

To launch the Big Walk and Wheel, we are hosting a virtual assembly specifically for Leicester schools. Link for the [Big Walk and Wheel virtual](#) assembly.

The3Engineers STEM talks

[The3Engineers](#) are giving two online STEM talks in the coming months:

- Great Spring clean - Fri 21st of Mar - SSERC - 9:15am
- International Space flight 4th - April - SSERC - 9:15am

Click [here](#) to sign up.

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Our mailing address is:

Leicester City Council – Sustainability and Energy Team

115 Charles St,

Leicester LE1 1FZ

United Kingdom

To unsubscribe, please email SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk

