

May 2025



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

We hope you had a lovely half term break and are ready for the final term of the academic year!

This eBulletin includes a few opportunities ready for next year as well as a couple of free family events coming up soon. Read on to find out more!

Upcoming events and competitions:

- Clean Air Day – Thursday 19 June 2025
- Restoring the Soar Event – Saturday 21 June 2025
- Eco-Schools Celebration 2025 – Thursday 26 June 2025
- Mealbarrow extravaganza event at Abbey Pumping Station – Saturday 5 July 2025
- 2025 Summer Reading Challenge, Story Garden



Go Green, Get Growing! Event at Abbey Park to celebrate the launch of the tree strategy.

Possible activities for next year:

- Good Life Schools Project
- Litter picking equipment to borrow
- JUST ONE Tree

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

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.





Eco-Schools and Good Life Schools Celebration 2025 – final places remaining!

Thursday 26 June 2025, 9.30 am – 2.15 pm

City Hall, Charles Street, LE1 1FZ

Celebrate the work that your school has completed this year by attending our annual Eco-Schools Celebration, this year a joint celebration with Global Action Plans' Good Life Schools programme.

Bring along up to 6 students to display your Environmental and Eco-Schools projects! Please note that you do not have to have completed or submitted an Eco-Schools application or been part of the Good Life Schools Programme to attend the celebration event.

Prizes will be awarded to top scoring schools, including tickets to Twycross Zoo for a year group of your choice (transport not included), and vouchers to be confirmed.

Book your place now via our [eForm](#)!

For more information contact: Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk; 0116 454 7156

Mealbarrow Extraveganza 2025

Saturday 5 July 2025, 11am – 3pm

Abbey Pumping Station, LE4 5PX

Our annual 'Mealbarrow Extraveganza' is back on **Saturday 5 July 2025** at Abbey Pumping Station. Come along to this free, family event and view the wheelbarrows created and grown by local schools. You will then be invited to vote for your favourite! Alongside the 'Mealbarrows', a railway day is taking place, the Children's BookBus will be onsite and there is free entry to the museum all day.

For more information, please contact GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk



Clean Air Day

Clean Air Day is back, and it's bigger and better than ever! This national initiative supported by the city council and Leicester schools since 2018, is all about raising awareness and taking action against air pollution.

This year, we're aiming for even more schools to get involved and show their support for cleaner, healthier air. It's time for us to make a real impact!

To get your school involved, follow these three steps:

1. Save the date - Thursday 19 June 2025. Please add this date to your diaries.
2. Decide on ideas to support the day – this can include information giving, car-free days, school assemblies, citizen science, lessons or workshops, idling campaigns and incentives to cycle or walk or scoot, park and strides or walking buses, or your own ideas. We will also be contacting some schools to offer a school street road closure.
3. Register your interest using this [form](#)

If you have any questions, please contact:

Danni Kennel, Education Officer (Air Quality) Danielle.kennell@leicester.gov.uk



Restoring the Soar – Nature Day event

Saturday 21st June 2025, 12-4pm

Watermead Country Park (South), LE4 7RN

The Restoring the Soar project team are excited to host a free 'Nature Day' event at Watermead Country Park (South) on Saturday 21st June 2025, from 12 noon – 4pm. This event will provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to take part in a range of fun, nature related activities and become more familiar with the wildlife and habitats along the river corridor. During the event, people will learn new species identification and recording skills through using wildlife surveying equipment and ID guides/tools. There will be a combination of organised and self-led activities, enabling visitors to explore the natural world through hands-on experiences, whilst spending valuable time outdoors. We are also very keen to hear people's thoughts, experiences and hopes for the River Soar, including any concerns about the issues that can affect people and wildlife.



For further information please contact nature.conservation@leicester.gov.uk

Please note- Parking charges apply at the Watermead Country Park (south) car park.

The Restoring the Soar project is made possible with [The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#). The Restoring the Soar partnership includes Leicester City Council, Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust and Canal & River Trust.

Green Flag applications

The Eco-Schools Green Flag application window is now open and will be open for submissions until the end of July 2025. We are able to sponsor all schools within Leicester City (please contact us if you are not sure whether this includes you), meaning schools will pay at £50 contribution towards their application. If you need any help when completing your application or have any final activities with your Eco-Team that you would like our support with, please get in touch with Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk.



Good Life Schools



Fully funded opportunity for secondary schools and sixth forms in Leicester and Leicestershire, limited places available!

Good Life Schools is a student-led, project-based learning journey that supports young people to reflect on what it means to live a good life in a world consumed by 'stuff'.

Students will design and deliver hands-on projects that challenge excessive consumption and promote community wellbeing. Projects might include:

- A fix and repair shop for bikes and electronics
- A swap shop for second-hand clothes
- A campaign for homemade or pre-loved gift giving

By joining the programme, your school will receive:

- Teacher training and a launch assembly from the Good Life Schools team
- A full programme pack with step-by-step guides and ready-to-use classroom resources
- Funding of up to £2000 to help you deliver the project
- Ongoing support and inspiration through the Good Life Schools community

Why get involved?

- Empower students to lead change
- Support mental health and wellbeing
- Boost student voice, confidence, and leadership
- Strengthen school-community connections

To sign up for Good Life Schools for next academic year or find out more, please email marc.tench@leicester.gov.uk or Sian Buckley (Community Engagement Lead for Good Life Schools) on sian.buckley@globalactionplan.org.uk



Litter Picking Equipment

Thanks to funding from local ward councillors last year, we now have 7 litter picking kits that we can lend out to schools who would like to borrow them. This is a FREE service for schools in the city.

Litter picking is a great action to take as part of your Eco-Schools Green Flag action plans! Lots of schools also use it as a way of engaging with their local communities.

To register for a kit, simply sign up through the [eForm](#).

Just One Tree

Join JUST ONE Tree Day – Friday 17th October 2025

Inspire your students to take climate action and grow a greener future with JUST ONE Tree Day – a fun, educational non-uniform day where every £1 raised plants a tree.

It's free for schools to take part, comes with curriculum-linked resources, and helps children feel empowered rather than anxious about the planet.

Run by non-profit JUST ONE Tree – proud partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and Eco-Schools England – the initiative tackles climate change head-on by growing forests, regenerating oceans and educating future generations.

Over 240,000 students have already taken part, helping plant 380,000+ trees.



We've met the team at JUST ONE Tree and believe this is a fantastic and high-impact project for all schools to get involved in.

Unite with schools across the world and make sure your school is part of this growing movement.
Sign up today at justonetree.life/schools-sustainability

2025 Summer Reading Challenge, Story Garden



Get reading with Leicester Libraries and the Story Garden team. Win collectibles as you borrow books and let your imagination grow! Your local library is a great place to visit this summer for a range of free and low-cost activities. Little ones can join in too at our weekly Toddler Times.

Check out our full activities programme at tinyurl.com/SRCprogramme

Grown-ups get reading too! You can be a role model and support your children by joining in and reading six books too. Pick up a form at your local library and enter the prize draw for a chance to win £30 worth of books.

Summer Reading Challenge is produced by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with librarians.

30 Days Wild – The Wildlife Trusts

Throughout June, the Wildlife Trusts are hosting their #30dayswild campaign, encouraging young people and adults to slow down, explore and reconnect with the world just beyond your door. There are free resources available for families to use and enjoy, along with various activity suggestions. As an educator you can also access free lesson plans, aimed predominately at KS2 but can be adapted for others.

Visit the [website](#) to find out more!



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Leicester City Council – Sustainability and Energy Team
115 Charles St,
Leicester LE1 1FZ
United Kingdom

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