

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

We are now in full swing for the Summer term, with wide range of projects and events coming up.

Upcoming events, projects and competitions:

No Mow May is taking place throughout May to encourage Wildflowers

Compost Awareness Week runs from on Sunday 3rd to Saturday 9th May

World Fair Trade Day is on Friday 8th May

Love a Tree Day is on Saturday 16th May

World Bee Day is on Wednesday 20th May

Outdoor Classroom Day is on Thursday 21st May

International Day for Biological Diversity is Friday 22nd May

Litter Less Leicester – running until Friday 3rd June.

Grow Your Own Grub Showcase – Saturday 4th July.

Deadline for submissions for our June ebulletin = 5pm on Wednesday 27th May 2026



Vicky visited a primary school to celebrate Earth Day with a whole-school assembly and then worked with EYFS students to create their own planet Earth.

Take care and, as always, if you need any help or support do get in touch.

Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk

Victoria.Brown@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](https://www.facebook.com/EnvEducationLeicester)



[EcoSchoolsLCC](https://www.youtube.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)



[EcoSchoolsLCC](https://twitter.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)



[EcoSchoolsLCC](https://www.instagram.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)



schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools



SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk

Eco Schools Green Flag Award – Applications now OPEN!

The Eco Schools application window is **now open until 31st July 2026**.

Last year, 42 schools achieved their Green Flag awards, putting Leicester City in the top 5 areas in the UK for Eco Schools – can we achieve as many or even more this year?

When you log on to the Eco Schools portal, you can now complete all the sections for the 7 steps – please do read through the criteria carefully to see if anything has changed and what evidence is a requirement to get your award.

Wondering about going for Merit or Distinction? Since you are already applying, it only takes 5-10 more minutes to get the Merit or Distinction Awards by answering the Bonus Education and Bonus Environmental Questions. All you need is 20 points (4 ticks) for the Education section, and 20 points (20 ticks) for the Environmental Section to get Merit or 30 points (Education) and 40 points (Environmental) for the Distinction!

Funding - We are delighted to be able to sponsor all schools within Leicester City (please contact us if you are not sure whether this includes you), meaning schools will only pay a £50 contribution towards your application (due in September 2026).

If you need any help or support with your application or any step of the process, please do get in touch, as we are happy to provide support in person, or via email, Teams and phone call. Email Vicky at victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk.



Eco-Schools Celebration – Sign up now!

Celebrate the work that your school has completed this year by attending our Eco-Schools Celebration event. Bring along up to 8 students to display your Eco-Schools project/s and celebrate your Eco-Schools Green Flag award.

Special guests will come round and chat to your students and see their projects, before **awarding prizes** for different categories.

Taking place on **Friday 12 June 2026 (9.30am-2.15pm) at City Hall**, Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ.

[Eco-Schools Celebration 2026 - sign up form](#)

If you have any initial questions, please contact Vicky Brown at victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk



Eco-Schools Celebration 2026

Friday 12 June 2026 • City Hall, Leicester

Celebrate the work that your school has completed this year by attending our annual Eco-Schools Celebration. Bring along up to 8 students to display your environmental and Eco-Schools projects! Please note that you do not have to have completed or submitted your Eco-Schools application to attend the celebration event.

Schools can display 2 projects that they have worked on throughout the year. Often, schools choose to relate these to the Eco-Schools topics, as listed below:

- Biodiversity
- Energy
- Litter
- Waste
- Transport
- Water
- School Grounds
- Healthy Living
- Global Citizenship
- Marine

All schools will be judged on three categories:

- Eco-School of the Year
- Judge's Special Award
- Eco-factor Award (voted by students)

Prizes will be awarded to top scoring schools.

The event will run from 9.30am – 2.15pm. Students and staff will need to bring a 'plastic clever' packed lunch.

Approximate timings of the day

09.30-10.00	Students/staff set up stalls
10.00-12.00	Judges visit stalls and speak to students
12.00-13.00	Lunch and activities
13.00-14.00	Presentations and awards
14.00-14.15	Stalls dismantled and students/staff leave

Book your place now via our [eForm](#) by 15th May!

For more information contact: marie.barnes@leicester.gov.uk
07501 808 330

CLIMATE READY LEICESTER Sustainable Schools LEICESTER

Grow Your Own Grub Mealbarrow Extravaganza 2026

Saturday 4 July 2025, 11am – 3pm

Abbey Pumping Station, Leicester, LE4 5PX

Our annual 'Mealbarrow Extravaganza' is back on **Saturday 4 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



The poster features logos for the Leicester Food Plan, Leicester City Council, Climate Ready Leicester, Sustainable Schools Leicester, and TCV. The main text reads: 'Leicester's Mealbarrow Extravaganza! (part of the Grow Your Own Grub competition for schools) Saturday 4 July 2026 11am – 3pm FREE event at Abbey Pumping Station Museum Corporation Rd, Leicester, LE4 5PX'. Below the text are three images: a school bus, a garden, and a tractor. At the bottom, it says: 'Come and view the mealbarrows created by local schools and vote for your favourite! Railway Day – enjoy a ride on the train! Visit the new electric book bus and enjoy some free activities! Free entrance to the museum. For more information, please contact GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk or 0116 454 6743'.

The Smile Awards

We're excited to share with you that The Smile Awards are returning to celebrate the people who keep Leicester's smiles healthy and happy!

Delivered by the Healthy Teeth, Happy Smiles! team, The Smile Awards will highlight the efforts dental practices, nurseries, schools, health care professionals, voluntary organisations and individuals have taken in improving the oral health of children, young people and families in Leicester.

If you would like more information, or **to nominate yourself or someone else for a Smile Award, please visit www.leicester.gov.uk/smileawards**

Nominations are now open and close on Monday 25th May 2026.

A panel of judges will then review the nominations and select 5 finalists per category.

The **Smile Awards ceremony will take place on Tuesday 7th July 2026.** Shortlisted organisations and individuals will be invited to attend. Winners will be announced on this day!

Award Categories - there are seven nomination categories that celebrate the promotion of good oral health:

- **Community Champion Award – Adults:** an individual or group who works or volunteers in Leicester and has worked hard to improve the oral health of adults in the community that they work in.
- **Community Champion Award – Children:** an individual or group who works or volunteers in Leicester and has worked hard to improve the oral health of children in the community that they work in.
- **Dental Practice Award:** a dental practice in Leicester that goes over and above their call of duty to improve the oral health of their community as well as their patient population, working as a team.
- **Early Years Award:** an early years setting (i.e. nursery, childminder, pre-school) that is passionate about improving the health of the children who attend their setting and works hard to support children and their parents to maintain good oral health.
- **School Award:** a school in Leicester that has prioritised improving oral health in their school and has put in a special effort to do so.
- **Health Care Professional Award:** an individual or team (e.g. health visitor, care home staff) working in Leicester who has demonstrated a strong commitment to prioritising and promoting oral health within their everyday practice.



-
- **Above and Beyond Award:** Focused on individuals in the above settings and the wider community who have tirelessly worked to promote oral health in Leicester. The winner will be an individual who has shown enthusiasm, passion and dedication to improving oral health in their setting or community.

We look forward to hearing about the fantastic work that is taking place across Leicester city to promote and maintain oral health!

To keep up to date with nominations, announcements and winners, visit: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/smileawards>
X: @LiveWellLeics Facebook: Live Well Leicester Instagram: livewellleicester

Eco Teach Meet at Montrose School

We are excited to be running an Eco teach Meet at Montrose School, Wigston Ln, Aylestone, Leicester LE2 on **Tuesday 9 June 2026, 4pm – 5:15pm.**

Refreshments and chance for a chat from 3.30pm

Confirmed speakers:

Will Warley (Sustainability lead at Montrose School) – Tour of Montrose Ravine (see article below), how other schools and organisations can use it, wildlife recording

Marc Tench – Using Tiny Forests for outdoor education

Anna Fryer – Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)

Sign up using the [eform](#).

All school staff and organisations welcome! If you would like more information, please contact marc.tench@leicester.gov.uk



FREE Farm school trips at Grange Farm

Grange Farm (Loughborough, LE12 5EE) have 3 spaces left to fill for FREE visits to our farm!

We can offer a wide range of trip options from 10-2pm for any of the following:

- 'All about our Farm' trip and talk about our Farming Robot, farm to plate, cows, vehicles, milking parlour, crops.
- Pond dipping- great for getting hands on with biodiversity!
- Trees/ plant identification
- Photosynthesis and Pollination- we have some interactive games that we can play with the kids.
- Extreme Den Building (team work and engineering!) using tarp, rope, trees, branches and clips
- Mini Beasts and Bug Vacuums- make a vacuum, suck up bugs, identify them
- Worms/ Soil- make a wormery



We have a huge barn craft room where we have 6-10 activities set up for children (arts, crafts, science experiments) and they can have the last hour in there exploring and being creative. We have a lunch room that will seat up to about 35 children and the adults.

If you are interested, please do get in touch with our Education Co-Ordinator, Catherine Hilder by phone: 07917 717322 or email at: cat_hilder@hotmail.co.uk

For upcoming events: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61573117030817>

30 Days Wild

June feels different. The light lingers. Bees buzz around gardens. Swifts soar overhead. Wildflowers push through cracks in the pavement. And we're inviting you to notice it all!

30 Days Wild is the UK's biggest nature challenge. This June, choose one wild thing a day (or a few each week) - from giving nature a helping hand to simply noticing the wild on your doorstep.

Sign up on their website to receive your free pack in the post and by email. Join thousands of people connecting with nature, feeling better and making a positive difference for nature.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild>



Clean air day is on June 18 2026, so save the date!

Clean Air Day is the UK's biggest initiative to reduce air pollution. It provides an opportunity to raise awareness about air pollution and take action towards improving the quality of air for a healthier environment. Clean Air Day is a national initiative that Leicester City Council has been a part of since 2018.



The day aims to raise awareness of the importance of clean air for our health and the environment. It encourages our city's communities, schools and businesses to take action to reduce air pollution to create a healthier and sustainable future, for everyone.

Keep an eye out for updates!

Free Resources for outdoor sessions and learning

With Outdoor Classroom Day taking place this month on 21st May, and 30 Days Wild happening throughout June, there are plenty of resources for you to access and use to get students outside!

For anyone who is looking for useful worksheets and resources to use when doing outdoor education sessions, a Bioblitz, Bug Hunts, bird watching, outdoor crafts, etc, then the following websites are two which have a brilliant selection of free to access printable resources:

Woodland Trust – Tree Tools for schools resources: [Tree Tools for Schools – Woodland Trust](#)

Wildlife Trusts – Wildlife Watch resources: [Activities](#) | [Wildlife Watch](#)

Wildlife Trusts – Educators resources: [For educators](#) | [Wildlife Watch](#)

Wildlife Aid - has some great ideas for activities to do at School: [Wildlife Resources for schools](#)

WWF Species Resources For Schools: [Species resources for schools](#) | [WWF](#)

RSPB Activities: [Wildlife Garden Activities](#) | [Nature on your Doorstep](#)

There are many more to discover so you should have plenty of ideas to get everyone outside, having fun and learning!

Copyright © 2026 Leicester City Council - Sustainability Team, all rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because it provided information about Environmental Education. We send monthly eBulletin and termly newsletters.

Our mailing address is:

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

To unsubscribe, please click email victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk

