

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

We hope you have settled in after the Christmas holidays. Last month we planted Leicester's 30th Tiny Forest at Eyres Monsell Primary School. Thank you and well done to everyone who has been involved in any of the 30 Tiny Forests in Leicester! Read the BBC article about it [here](#).

We also launched this year's *Grow Your Own Grub* competition and sign up forms are open [here!](#)

This is an important eBulletin with lots of things to sign up for, including FREE books and a fabulous tree art competition. We have lots of exciting events and training planned for the next few months so read on to find out more!



*Planting Leicester's 30th Tiny Forest at
Eyres Monsell Primary School*

Upcoming events and competitions:

- Grow your own Grub competition – Sign up deadline Monday 3 March
- Earth Hour virtual assembly – Friday 21 March
- Big Walk and Wheel virtual assembly – Monday 24 March
- Carbon literacy training – Friday 16 May

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.



SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk

Good Life Schools

We have five spaces for schools for next year on the exciting [Good Life Schools](#) programme. Good Life Schools is a free programme for **Secondary schools and Sixth Forms/Colleges** which brings communities together to create ways of living and learning together that are good for us, and good for the planet.

By joining the programme, your school will receive:

- A free pack of resources, session plans and delivery timeframe
- A programme launch assembly delivered by a Good Life Schools coordinator
- Ongoing planning support from your designated Good Life Schools coordinator
- Funding of up to £2,000 to help you deliver the project in your school
- Free workshops from local community organisations
- Access to the Good Life Schools Support Network and Newsletter
- Student and staff invites to local and national Celebration Events, providing the opportunity to meet with, and learn from, other schools



We are running an information session on Wednesday 26 February 3:30-4pm. No need to sign up, just use this [link](#) on the day.

To sign up for Good Life Schools for next academic year or find out more, please email

Jasmine.Walker@leicester.gov.uk or

Sian Buckley (Community Engagement Lead for Good Life Schools) on sian.buckley@globalactionplan.org.uk

Grow Your Own Grub 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 3 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. You can confirm your attendance at this on the [Sign up](#) form.

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**



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.

Less Litter for Leicester

We are running the less litter project again this year, from Monday 3 March to Friday 4 July 2025. Participating schools will receive a free virtual or in-person assembly (or resources to run your own), will raise awareness across your school community about the problems caused by litter, and also receive a loan of litter picking equipment for a half term if required (subject to availability).

We are running an [online webinar](#) to find out more at 3.30- 4pm on the 25 February 2025 – no need to book, just use the link on the day (recording will be provided).

If you would like your school to take part in this project please complete our [eform](#).



By participating in this campaign, your school will also be eligible to tick a task toward earning a Plastic Clever School Award - find out more below!

Nature in Leicester's Parks – FREE book for schools!



Leicester Friends of the Earth volunteers recently investigated how much wildlife was living in the City's parks. From this, they have put together a booklet showcasing the wonderful plants, birds and other creatures living in seven of the parks in Leicester. These parks are Hamilton, Spinney Hill, Evington, Humberstone, Willowbrook, Stokeswood and Appleton. The booklet includes illustrations from local artists, descriptions of the parks and even an I-Spy challenge relating to nature in the parks.

Nature in Leicester's Parks



The volunteers at Leicester Friends of the Earth are aiming to encourage as many people as possible to engage with nature on their doorsteps (and in the local parks!) by sharing the booklet far and wide.

These books are a great way to find out more about biodiversity in Leicester and would be a great thing to send home to help engage families in exploring their local area.

We previously ran this a few months ago but recently realised the email address was wrong. If you previously signed up for some books, please re-contact Hannah using the correct email

below. Please also sign up if you haven't previously – there will be plenty to go around! Please contact Hannah by the end of this term on h.r.wakley@googlemail.com and let her know how many copies you would like.

Virtual Assemblies

We have two virtual assemblies in March! Both assemblies will run from 1.30-2pm. No need to sign up, just click on the links below on the day.

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



Free Forest School Sessions and Funding with Leicester City Football Club

Leicester City in the Community run a Forest Foxes programme where they offer six weeks of free Forest School sessions within a school or group's setting and then also offer funding towards getting staff or volunteers training in outdoor forest school so you can continue the provision afterwards. Places are limited but they welcome interest from all schools. For more information please email Vicky at Victoria.Brown@lfc.co.uk.



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.

Registration is quick and simple and if you sign up before 17 February you will be entered into our Earlybird prize draw where you could win cycle storage facilities for your school, worth up to a value of £30,000! Register [here](#).

Sustainability Support for Education

Sustainability Support for Education enables education settings to start or progress on their sustainability journey. This includes all types of settings from Early Years to Higher Education.

They offer suggested actions paired with quality-assured resources. You can filter these so you only see suggestions that are relevant to your setting - based on your teaching age, priorities, how far you've progressed already, estate, and more.

Find out more and sign up [here](#).

Plastic Clever Schools

Plastic Clever Schools puts students at the heart of tackling plastic pollution, while building skills for a sustainable future. There are three simple steps—Inspire, Investigate, and Act. With free student workbooks and teacher toolkits, we provide everything you need, including curriculum-aligned resources and training to help you teach about sustainability and climate change through a plastic lens. Recommended by Eco-Schools, Plastic Clever Schools supports the Marine, Litter, Waste and Global Citizenship topics. Join our growing network of 44 schools in Leicester, and more than 1,200 schools worldwide, working together for a future freed from plastic. More information [here](#).



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