

A message from Mrs Powell , our Environmental Science lead:

Environmental Science is something which I feel incredibly passionate about because it effects all of us and I feel it's important to inspire the younger generation to look after the planet. As a UN Accredited Climate Change Teacher, I am keen to focus on environmental science at our school and by making our school more eco-friendly.

As part of developing Environmental Science I am always keen to hear from parents / carers who are involved in the industry in any way and would be willing to share their knowledge and expertise with the children.

Design and Purpose

Environmental Science integrates physical, biological and information sciences to the study of the environment and the solution of environmental problems. We want our pupils to develop knowledge and skills to succeed in a complex world, cultivating a sense of humanity and belonging and this is at the heart of Environmental Science. At Darlinghurst, we teach the children environmental science in several ways:

Firstly, our Connected Curriculum units focus in on biological and geographical aspects of the environment such as plants, animals, lifecycles and studies of our local area. We are privileged to have vast school grounds and outdoor learning facilities which enable our pupils to deepen their understanding and make it relevant to them. Please see the Science, Humanities and Outdoor Learning pages for more information.

As an Eco-school, we embed understanding of environmental problems in all aspects of school life such as recycling, littering and energy use. Our children are Active citizens in enabling our school to tackle these issues and raise awareness of the local, national and global impact, contributing to the wider world. Please see the Active Citizens page for more information.

The focused topic of Climate Change, enables our children to think critically about challenges facing the global community in terms of climate change and to explore some of the solutions to this environmental issue. Considering how they can affect these issues helps children understand that both action and inaction have consequences. Please see the Focused topic page for more information.

Termly Reflections

Autumn

As part of their Science topic, Year 4 looked at the impact of littering and waste, exploring newspaper articles. They wrote letters to the council asking for how they would solve these issues.

Year 6 learnt about how orang-utans are endangered because of the palm oil industry and deforestation and what they could do to help, as part of the National Youth Climate Summit in November.

The Eco-club were involved in a few national events this half term. Firstly there was the National Youth Climate Summit run by Transform Your World in November whereby the children watched lessons and learnt tips about how we as a school could become more environmentally friendly.

They also attended a meeting led by Keep Britain Tidy about littering, waste and plastic pollution and shared their ideas and questions on how these problems could be solved at a national level. They planted some wildflower seeds in the school grounds to make them more bee and insect friendly.

The focus topic News enabled different classes to focus on current issues affecting our planet such as pollution and climate change.



Spring

In the Spring term, we celebrated Eco Week virtually. Each year group focused on a different topic and Mrs Powell encouraged children to complete tasks at home from making bug hotels, creating posters about climate change to litter picking. The Year 6 keyworker bubble went on a litter pick outside the school and collected 4 sacks of rubbish from the Brook and Manchester Drive. Years 1 to 6 also learnt about Climate Change through this term's focus topic. Children in Year 5 created a rap about what we could do to solve the problem and Year 6 wrote a newspaper report on the effects of climate change on animals.



Summer

In the summer term, the school celebrated World Earth Day through learning about deforestation in Year 2, recycling in Reception and electronic waste in Year 6. The school took part in Walking to School Week which encouraged children to think about staying healthy but also about the impact of pollution. The winning classes got to have extra PE for trying hard to walk to school every day. Darlington took part in Keep Britain Tidy's Great Big School Clean Up, with a competition for the cleanest classroom. Within our Edison curriculum, there were lots of opportunities for environmental science across the school. Year 1 looked at the importance of water as part of their topic, 'Why is water so precious?' and Year 3 looked at the importance of bugs and biodiversity. Year 5 encouraged children to take notice of what we have in our local area such as animals, plants and trees and the importance of bees.



Difference

Our children learn to be active citizens through learning about how to protect the environment and demonstrating this at home and in the wider community. They develop the skills of being a good member of the community, within a group and whilst showing individual responsibility through critical thinking and working creatively. They gain the knowledge of how to look after our world as part of themes such as biodiversity, litter, waste, water, transport, global citizenship, energy, marine, healthy living and school grounds. Our children are equipped to be successful learners within the school environment but also represent this within the wider world due to their effective contribution in the local community. At Darlington, we know our children need the knowledge and the skills to succeed. It is a continuing process to encourage learning through experiences to best ensure that our children are prepared for the complex world they will be living in when they leave school. We offer our children a wide variety of experiences in Environmental Science to help prepare them for any changes they may face, using our school grounds effectively. Environmental Science is part of our school ethos and embedded within our learning which is illustrated through children's written work about climate change and plastic pollution and in projects such as upcycling materials in Design Technology. Our work within the Eco-schools framework, has enabled a strong, passionate team of pupils to lead the school towards achieving the Green Flag Award. The children regularly lead assemblies informing the rest of the school about their latest projects and progress. The weekly Eco-club has enabled pupils outside of the Eco-team to learn more about environmental science and demonstrate their passion through learning about the key themes of the Eco-schools scheme and contributing to the Eco-school's programme.



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