



## Peak Edge Eco Newsletter Issue 2

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

We're excited to bring you the latest updates on our journey toward a greener, more sustainable future across Peak Edge schools. In this edition, we celebrate the incredible efforts happening in our schools to reduce waste, conserve energy, and inspire environmental stewardship among our children and staff.

From innovative eco-projects to practical tips for everyday sustainability, this newsletter is designed to keep you informed, connected, and motivated. Together, we're building a culture that values our planet and empowers the next generation to make a positive impact.

Thank you for being part of this important mission - every action counts, and every voice matters. Let's continue to lead the way in creating a cleaner, brighter future for all.

## In This Issue



In this issue:

- **Peak Edge joins Let's Go Zero**
- **Greystones Primary School's Switch Off Fortnight Success**
- **Hunter's Bar Infant School: Operation Parksafe in Action**
- **Dobcroft Nursery Infant School's Christmas Clothes pop up shop**
- **Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School Plants Seeds for a Greener Future**
- **Abbey Lane Eco Council Springs Back to Life!**
- **Ecclesall Achieves Outstanding Platinum STARS Accreditation**
- **Contact Us**



Peak Edge joins Let's Go Zero



## Schools working together to be zero carbon

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We are proud to announce we have joined the national Let's Go Zero campaign. Many of our schools are aiming to become zero carbon school by 2030. With the support of a dedicated Climate Action Advisor, we are developing climate actions to plan to cut emissions, engage our pupils, and support local sustainability goals.

Let's Go Zero is a campaign uniting one in five schools in the UK to take climate action. Backed by 20 leading organisations, it supports schools with tools, funding guidance, and expertise.

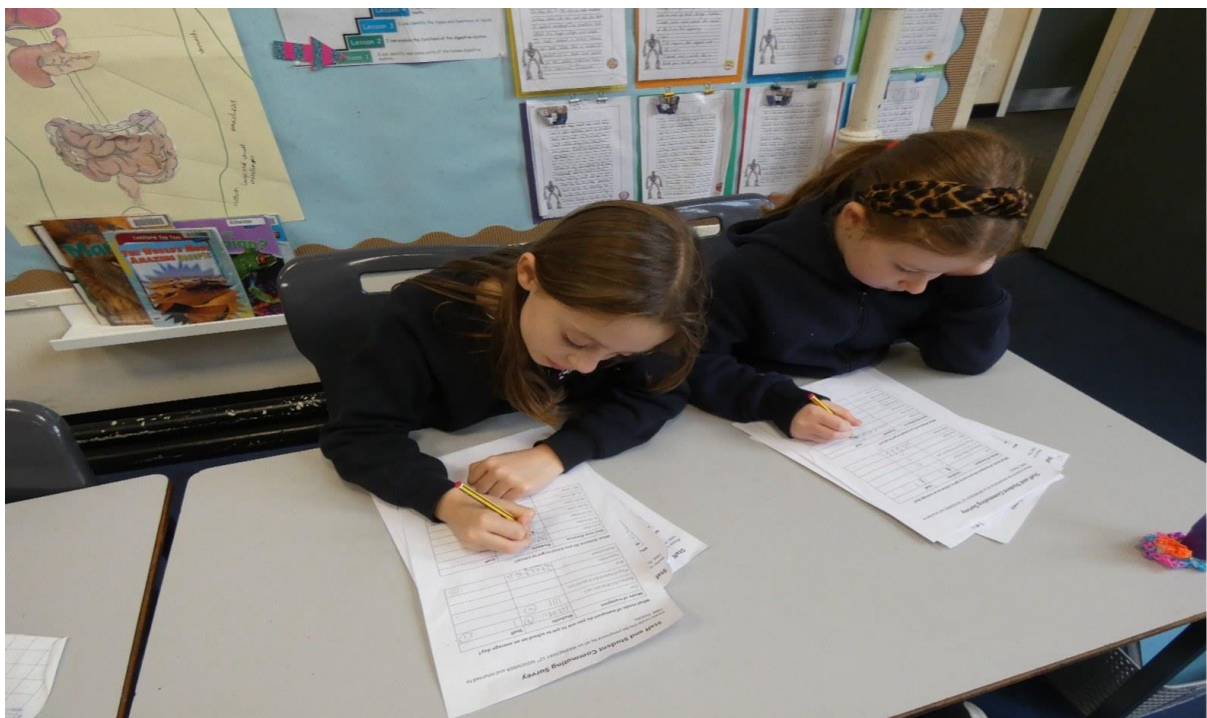
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Head of Let's Go Zero, Alex Green, said: "It's fantastic to welcome so many Peak Edge schools to the Let's Go Zero campaign. Every school that joins brings us one step closer to a zero carbon future. Students, staff, and communities are showing what's possible when we work together for climate action. By signing up, Peak Edge is sending a powerful message of hope and leadership - showing that schools can be a force for change, for our planet and future generations."

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## Greystones Primary School's Switch Off Fortnight Success



Between **11th and 25th November**, Greystones Primary School took part in **Switch Off Fortnight** as part of its commitment to reducing energy use and tackling climate change.

During the two weeks, the school's **Eco Warriors** worked hard to promote energy-saving habits. They went undercover in classrooms and across the school to carry out an **energy audit**, checking how many lights and appliances were left on during lunchtimes. They also shared practical **tips** on how everyone could save energy and money both at school and at home.

Families were encouraged to join in, supported by a **Top Tips poster** sent home to help reduce energy use. At the end of the fortnight, the school celebrated the results and was delighted to see the positive impact of the campaign. The enthusiasm of the Eco Warriors showed that small changes can make a big difference for the planet.

**The pod**

## Save energy at home

Try one of these handy energy-saving tips to reduce your home's bills and carbon emissions.

**Heating and hot water**  
More than half of your fuel bill is likely to be spent on heating and hot water<sup>1</sup>, so it's a good place to start looking for energy savings.

- ▶ Turn down your room thermostat by just one degree and you could save up to £90 a year<sup>2</sup>. Aim for a temperature of between 18-21°C.
- ▶ Spend one minute less in the shower and save around £10 each year, per person<sup>3</sup>.
- ▶ Switch to a water-efficient showerhead. This could save a four-person household around £67 a year<sup>4</sup>.

**Lighting**  
Lighting consumes about a fifth of your electricity bill<sup>5</sup>, so look for savings here too.

- ▶ You can't buy traditional incandescent bulbs anymore, but you might still have some old bulbs in use, so upgrade these to Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) or LED spotlights.
- ▶ Switch off lights: even if you turn off a light off for just a few seconds, it'll save more energy than it takes for the light to start up again – and this could save you around £15 a year<sup>6</sup>.

**Appliances**  
Homes today have more appliances than ever before, but you can save money by using them more efficiently.

- ▶ Don't leave appliances in standby – this includes always-on devices, such as broadband modems.
- ▶ Only fill the kettle with the amount of water that you need – boiling more wastes water and electricity<sup>7</sup>.
- ▶ Choose energy-efficient appliances but remember that the larger an appliance, the more energy it will consume – regardless of its energy rating.
- ▶ Consider swapping a desktop computer for a laptop, which consumes 85% less electricity over a year<sup>8</sup>.

**Be smart about energy**  
Make sure you understand your energy usage and everyone in the family is saving energy too.

- ▶ Shop around for the best energy deal, as you could save more than £350<sup>9</sup>.
- ▶ Consider investing in a smart heating control that lets you manage your heating from your mobile.
- ▶ Involve the whole family in saving energy! Find quizzes, activities and games – like our fun energy-saving game Power Patrol – at [jointhepod.org](http://jointhepod.org).

**Households could save about £250 a year by installing some energy-efficient measures<sup>10</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water) <sup>2</sup>[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water) <sup>3</sup>[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water) <sup>4</sup>[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water) <sup>5</sup>[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water) <sup>6</sup>[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water) <sup>7</sup>[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water) <sup>8</sup>[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water) <sup>9</sup>[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water) <sup>10</sup>[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/heating-and-hot-water)



## Hunter's Bar Infant School: Operation Parksafes in Action







Hunter's Bar Infant School recently welcomed the **Parking Enforcement team from Sheffield City Council** as part of its **Operation Parksafes** initiative. The officers explained their vital role in keeping roads safe and supporting the local community. They even brought along **Parker the Bear**, who helped demonstrate how their equipment works, making the session both educational and fun for the children.

In **November and December**, the Parking Enforcement team partnered with **Key Stage 1 pupils** to patrol the roads around the school before and after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Together, they worked to raise awareness among drivers and pedestrians about safe parking habits, helping to improve safety for everyone in the community.



## Dobcroft Nursery Infant School's Christmas Clothes pop up shop



Dobcroft Nursery Infant School was proud to celebrate the incredible success of their Eco Reps' latest sustainability initiative - a fabulously festive **Christmassy Clothes Pop-Up Shop!** This creative project brought together children, staff, and families in a joyful celebration of community spirit and eco-conscious living.

The event was brimming with seasonal cheer as visitors browsed tables full of pre-loved holiday outfits, finding the perfect festive attire without the environmental cost of buying



new. From sparkly jumpers to party dresses, the pop-up shop offered an affordable and fun way to refresh Christmas wardrobes while embracing the principles of **reuse and reduce**.

But this wasn't just about fashion - it was about making a real difference. By choosing to rehome clothing rather than purchase brand-new items, the school community helped to:

- **Reduce textile waste**, one of the fastest-growing environmental challenges.
- **Save valuable resources**, including water and energy used in clothing production.
- **Model sustainable habits** for our children, showing that small actions can have a big impact on the planet.

The event was filled with laughter, excitement, and a shared sense of purpose. It was inspiring to see families come together to support this initiative, proving that sustainability can be simple, practical, and fun.

A huge **congratulations** to the school's dedicated Eco Reps for their hard work and creativity in organising such a thoughtful event. We'd also like to say a heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who donated, shopped, and supported this brilliant project. Your efforts have not only made Christmas more sustainable but have also set a shining example for future eco-friendly initiatives.

Here's to many more projects that help us tread lightly on the planet while keeping the festive spirit alive!

## Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School Plants Seeds for a Greener Future



**Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School's** Gardening Club has had a soggy and cold start to this half term's activities, but the determined young gardeners have not been deterred! At the beginning of term, the school welcomed **Bethan from Foodworks Sheffield**. Last year, the school was awarded **Nature Park funding**, and a portion of this was used to partner with Foodworks to provide food plants for pupils to grow. Bethan brought a selection of beautiful winter crops and supported the children in planting them. As a result, winter salads and cabbages are now thriving in the school's small yard planters.

The **Gardening Club** has also been busy planting new trees on site. Twelve hazel and willow saplings have been added to create a new hedge. In time, the school hopes to coppice its own willow and hazel whips for use in future activities.

The school is delighted to announce that it has been awarded £500 from the **Sheffield Town Trust** to help revamp the school allotment. The allotment is in urgent need of care to make it a usable space again. While the funding will cover materials, the school community will need to carry out the work, and volunteers are being sought to assist with this exciting project.

The school is aiming to achieve its **Silver Food for Life Award** by the summer, and having a functional allotment space to grow food is essential to this ambition.





## Abbey Lane Eco Council Springs Back to Life!



After a few quiet years, **Abbey Lane's** Eco Council is back and raring to go! This enthusiastic team of 15 pupils, from Year 2 to Year 6, were elected after passionately expressing their eco vision for the school.

One of their first achievements was launching the Duracell Battery Recycling Scheme, which they promoted with bright, eye-catching posters for both pupils and parents. Thanks to their efforts, an incredible 2,400 batteries have already been collected and recycled, and they're aiming even higher next year!

Working in mixed-age groups, the Eco Council completed the Eco Schools Environmental Review and selected three key areas to focus on this year, all aligned with the school's Climate Action Plan:

- **Energy:** Encouraging everyone to switch off unused electrical items and turn off taps after washing hands. Families were also invited to take part in November's Cut Your Carbon Month.
- **Biodiversity:** A major playground development project is underway, which will include more plants, habitats for insects, and homes for birds, hedgehogs, and other wildlife.



- **Transport:** In January, the council will install diffusion tubes to monitor air quality around the school. The results will help them understand how travel choices impact air quality—and explore ways to improve it.

Abbey Lane's Eco Council is proving that small actions can lead to big changes. Watch this space for more exciting updates as they work towards a greener future!

## Ecclesall Achieves Outstanding Platinum STARS Accreditation



**Ecclesall Primary School** is proud to announce that it has once again been successful in its Modeshift STARS Active Travel application, achieving the highest level of recognition – the **Outstanding (Platinum) STARS accreditation**. This prestigious award reflects the school's ongoing commitment to promoting healthy, sustainable, and active journeys to and from school. The achievement is the result of a collective effort involving dedicated staff, enthusiastic pupils, supportive families, and the wider local community, all working together to encourage safe and active travel habits. As part of its continued focus on road safety and active travel, Ecclesall Primary will soon appoint **new Junior Road Safety Officers from Year 6**. These pupils will play a key role in educating their peers and families about safe travel practices, helping to embed these values across the school community.

Huge congratulations to the school who have been crowned Modeshift STARS **School of the Region for Yorkshire and the Humber**! They are now heading to London in March 2026, where they'll be in the running for the national *Modeshift School of the Year* title. To top it

all, the pupils enjoyed a special celebratory performance from Smokey Joe. What a way to mark the moment!







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*For more information about Ecclesall Primary School's active travel initiatives, please visit their **Active Travel** page: <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/active-travel/>*

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## Contact Us

 **We'd love to hear from you!**

Whether you have a question, an idea, or want to get involved in our sustainability work, we're here and happy to help.

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Click the link above to reach our contact page — where you can find more details about our Trust and our schools, or send us a message directly.



