



Eco Schools 2017/18 Project Summaries



School	Grant	Theme	Description	Benefits
Blessed Mother Teresa	£450.00	Wildlife Area	We have purchased new plants for the garden to attract butterflies, birds, and bees, a potting shed, recycled wood for staging, and cleared the entire old and dead wood away and restarted the nature trail. The plants will be put in their designated place when the weather becomes wetter and cooler so as not to kill them. We were originally going to site the potting shed outside of the school protected area but on advice from the neighbours in the local community whose houses back onto the school and had their sheds broken into, and also the area PCSO it was decided that the shed may, when school is closed, be prone to vandalism or theft of tools and plants.	Greater diversity of wildlife especially butterflies and bees, which we have already witnessed from the classroom windows. Only this week we had a squirrel in the garden for the first time. We have also had children's parents becoming involved in the project, some have helped to clear the grounds helped to build the potting shed (see photos) some parents have taken advantage of the cleared space and grown, strawberries raspberries, red currents, gooseberries, in abundance. Parents have spoken about having a den area as a special learning area on nature.
Burton Manor Primary School	£410.00	Wildlife Area	We intend to develop our eco area to include sensory bedding (inspired by The Wolseley Centre) and create a willow arch as well as a water feature and the planting of meadow flowers to encourage bees and insects.	
Castlechurch Primary School	£440.00	Outdoor Learning Area	Our eco project developed a bare court yard into a creative and inspiring outdoor classroom area. We allowed the children to experience working outside and this area gives us a perfect space for outdoor learning. Within the area we house environmental resources that school already has such as bird charts and mini beast kits and ensure that the outdoor space encourages children to learn outside. The area now has planters, hanging baskets that encourage butterflies and a small bug house will be built in one corner. This court yard area is a tarmac area but it means that the classroom can be used after rainy weather as it's a non muddy zone.	Currently we don't have tables outside that the children can work at. This area already has picnic style bench tables that children can work at. We do a lot of work in the school grounds but then bring learning back inside. It is nice to retreat to the outdoor classroom to investigate and explore in an environment we don't need to keep clean like a classroom. We now have a large list of parent volunteers and these parents need a space to hear children read. In the summer months this area will be perfect for them. The bid provided money for the things we need to start the project. School is raising money to fund a canopy, wind chimes etc too



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<p>Fulford Primary School</p>	<p>£434.00</p>	<p>Forrest Schools</p>	<p>We have used the grant to help us set up our forest schools sessions. We were able to purchase a wooden shed to store all of our tools so that they could be locked away safely. We purchased tarpaulin for the children to sit on and to use to build shelters when it is wet. We also bought tools such as a bow saw, tool box, hand drills and knives. We have bought a fire pit toasted marsh mallows and made popcorn. At first there was no logs for the fire circle and the brambles were not cut back .The key stage 2 children were asked in forest schools to cut the brambles back further and they will still need work in the future. We would not have been able to do this without the grant providing tools. We now have a fire circle with logs which were kindly donated by a farmer.</p>	<p>This has had a positive impact on the behaviour of the children as it has given them an area that they can go to if they would like to sit down and it has also been useful for tool work. It is also a good starting and finishing point for the sessions. The children were bringing their clothes in a bag and changing in the afternoon for Forest Schools. The grant has ensured that we have waterproof clothing for those children who cannot provide their own. We have 4 wellington boxes across the school where we can now store them dry and securely. The children have benefited from learning in an outdoor environment and they have become more engaged with their writing after den building for book characters and writing instructions on how to use a knife safely.</p>
<p>Gnosall St Lawrence</p>	<p>£432.56</p>	<p>Outdoor Equipment</p>	<p>The monies at Gnosall have been spent on new gardening tools - hand trowels and forks, tree loppers a bow saw, spades and forks. We purchased new perimeter hedgerow and it is planned for further trees to be purchased to replace those that were lost last winter in the windy storm in February.</p>	
<p>Greenhall Nursery</p>	<p>£450.00</p>	<p>Outdoor Areas</p>	<p>We have installed 2 water butts and also made an accessible ramp for our children that are in wheelchairs or use walking aids. The children have loved watering our plants and vegetables. We have treated our existing raised beds with some new compost and have had a wonderful harvest of vegetables that the children have all sampled! We have turned several tyres into lovely planters, containing a variety of attractive herbs. We have also added some herbs to our rockery in our sensory garden. We have built a fenced composter and hope to have lots of compost in the Autumn!</p>	<p>The eco-grant has enabled us to continue developing many of our outdoor areas.</p>

<p>King Edward VI</p>	<p>£450.00</p>	<p>Outdoor Area</p>	<p>This years Eco Schools Grant has enabled us to continue the development of the Long Jump Garden. We have been able to replace the roof and insulate our bottle greenhouse, increase our composting capacity and install new raised beds in the polytunnel. We have also been able to replace and repair broken guttering along a nearby classroom and re-route the guttering to our rain water collection barrels. This has massively increased the amount of rainwater we have been able to collect and store. We have also installed a rotary hand pump. Each week Matt Long (community gardener) delivers forest school sessions and runs a lunch time gardening / eco clubs. Forest School sessions have included regular garden maintenance and development. These sessions have also included a range of nature based and ecological activities based outdoors and in the woodland at the bottom of the school field. Mark Malone (Science Teacher) regularly brings groups of students to volunteer in the garden at lunch time and as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. The science department at school make the most of opportunities such as 'outdoor classroom day' to engage students in learning outdoors.</p>	<p>Students have benefited from experiencing the journey of food from 'seed to stomach'. Students learned how to sow seeds, thin out seedlings and care for plants. Students have gained knowledge of plant identification and how to harvest and store plants. This year we have intentionally grown different varieties of plants to expose students to a wider range of produce. We have successfully grown rainbow carrots, yellow courgette (with green ends!), cucamelon and pink & white striped beetroot alongside all the usual fruit and vegetables. Installing new raised beds in the polytunnel has doubled our indoor growing space which has allowed us to grow a greater variety of vegetables and extended our growing season. Increasing the capacity of our composting area has allowed us to compost vegetable peelings from the school canteen as well as store grass clippings from the school field.</p>
<p>Oulton First School</p>	<p>£450.00</p>	<p>Outdoor Equipment</p>	<p>We didn't begin work on this pond area until October 2017 due to the over running of our previous project- Our Sensory Garden. We began by asking the children to plan the area. They came up with some great ideas and this was the final plan, which was an amalgamation of a number of ideas. The school is looking forward to making good use of this new outside area for pond dipping and other science or art based activities. This will enable the whole school to benefit from its use as a cross curricular learning environment.</p>	



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<p>Parkside Primary School</p>	<p>£153.12</p>	<p>Litter/ Recycling</p>	<p>The monies we received went towards the purchase of new bins for each classroom to introduce recycling to the pupils and to encourage less waste. We also purchased Eco warrior badges so each classroom could select a representative for the class to ensure the recycling bins are filled with paper only and a designated person to empty them as needed. The project has been successful and the school are looking towards introducing other recycling bins in the next academic year to further our recycling effort as a school.</p>	<p>The children have enjoyed the responsibility of being an Eco Warrior. The younger children change Eco Warriors weekly and the older classes take the responsibility of emptying the recycling bins in the school nursery. Feedback from staff and pupils has been very positive.</p>
<p>Pirehill First School</p>	<p>£450.00</p>	<p>Outdoor Area</p>	<p>The School Council and Eco Warriors at Pirehill First School have been keen to develop a quiet friendship space on our Key Stage 2 playground. For many years we have had a wooden structure on our Key Stage 2 playground which has looked very neglected and served no useful purpose, this was the area the School Council and Eco Warriors chose to develop and consequently applied for a Stafford Borough Council Eco-Schools Eco Grant. They were all absolutely thrilled when their bid was successful and keen to get to work.</p>	<p>The children are all absolutely thrilled with their new 'friendship zone' which was recently showcased as part of the judging route for Stone in Blooms entry to Britain in Bloom, with thanks given to Stafford Borough Council Eco-Schools Eco Grant in a display the children created for the event.</p>
<p>Sir Graham Balfour</p>	<p>£450.00</p>	<p>Forest Schools</p>	<p>We were granted funding for Matt Long to deliver the Forest School Programme. Forest School is a holistic educational process that aims to raise self-awareness and self-esteem in an outdoor, non-classroom environment. Students participate in small achievable tasks, connecting them with the environment and encouraging free exploration. This particular year we put on two groups and the second groups made up of pupil premium students, giving these students the opportunity of learning various skills. All students thoroughly enjoyed the experiment.</p>	<p>It has given students who lack in skills working as a team with their confidence working with others. Also, students who struggle with their self-esteem have been given the opportunity to express themselves outside the classroom environment. Forest School programme has been a success. Students who are members of Sir Graham Balfour Green Club, who thoroughly enjoyed the experience who completed 6 weeks. Also, 9 students who have different needs such as Autism, Self esteem and anger issues and students who are pupil premium completed the forest school programme.</p>

<p>St John's Primary School</p>	<p>£450.00</p>	<p>Litter / Recycling</p>	<p>This year we were lucky enough to receive £450.00 to help combat litter in and around our school. We decided that this grant would purchase some new litter bins for our playground. As our old ones were shabby and often blew over in the wind scattering the rubbish around the playground. The eco warriors began to search the internet for litter bins and they narrowed it down to three. They then carried out a survey with the children to see which one they liked best, The children gave really sensible answers and crucial feedback about the bins and even pointed out some things the adults hadn't even thought of! They decided on this bin and we ordered 4 of them. Unfortunately there was a problem with the order and we have not received them yet, the company has guaranteed they will be here in September!</p>	<p>We have also spoken to Katie at Stafford Borough Council and she is coming into school in September to deliver an assembly on litter. She has also provided us with a set of litter pickers, high vis vests and gloves! Throughout the year, the Eco warriors have worked tirelessly at lunchtime to pick up litter around the school grounds and were shocked about how much they collected, this prompted them to design and colour in litter posters to remind children to put litter in the bin.</p>
<p>St Leonards Dunston</p>	<p>£241.00</p>	<p>Outdoor Equipment</p>	<p>We have built a brand new sensory garden which is 63m long by 8m wide. The children have thoroughly helped designing the garden and helping to maintain it during Eco club. We are still currently doing our new meadow, pond and bog area, which will also have a small jetty for the children to sit on and pond dip from. With the money from yourselves we purchased all the materials needed such as log roll edging, pond liners, sand, soil, bark and much more. Perkins have very kindly been carrying out the work for us over a number of months and are looking to get the job finished this week!</p>	<p>We are very much looking forward to continuing with our Eco commitments when we return in September and hope to build an outdoor classroom/observatory in our forest area for the children to carry on learning more about the environment.</p>

<p>St Patricks Primary School</p>	<p>£300.00</p>	<p>Outdoor Area</p>	<p>During the spring term we set up a gardening and eco-club. We looked at issues such as waste and rubbish and impacts on the environment and we purchased tools and bulbs to plant in our school planters. We also joined the POD (sponsored by EDF energy) and presented an assembly to the whole school about rubbish, we also signed up for the big battery hunt initiative and recycled over 3000 batteries. During the summer term (2nd-6th July) we ran a whole school science week with a focus on 'WORMS'. We used the remainder of our eco-funding to purchase resources for this week including; compost, gravel, bark, sand and soil – to make worm habitats, a worm nursery including cocoons and 1kg of composting worms.</p>	<p>During strong winds in October our school poly tunnel was ripped and badly damaged. We have used our eco-funding in support of repairing this and recovering the outside with new plastic. To enable children to grow a range of plants inside, in support of their science learning. The funding really helped to enhance the delivery of our focus week and make the learning meaningful and memorable for the children. Each year group had a different focus, linked to their science curriculum, and carried out investigations and research in their classroom and out on the school field.</p>
<p>Walton Hall Academy</p>	<p>£425.00</p>	<p>Outdoor Equipment</p>	<p>Since receiving the Eco-bid, Walton Hall have undertaken several activities utilising the equipment. We have used the environment to create art with the clay- it was particularly enjoyable to go looking for the items, learning about different plants and trees and then rolling and moulding the clay to press the leaves into them. We have completed a project of work around fire safety and how to correctly light, cook and extinguish a fire. The Kevlar gloves and extendable sticks were particularly useful for students who could not crouch down to the fire or have mobility issues. This really made the activity accessible for all. Students loved using flints to start the fire and keeping it stoked for the duration of the activity. The activity promoted working effectively together with others and a team spirit. Students linked the work they had learnt in Science lessons during the school day to the practical activities they engaged in with us. We have created shelters as a team and enjoyed stories under the canopies. Students loved spending the evening under the shelter and it encouraged socialisation and positive communication.</p>	<p>The benefits of the projects have been an increase in confidence in students being outdoors, exploring and engaging with the local environment. Students have demonstrated positive team working and problem solving skills and have shown positive social interaction with each other. There has been individual growth in self- confidence, in engaging with new, challenging activities that are tailored to the needs and abilities of the students. These are activities that would not have been accessible to some of these students previously, particularly to engage and enjoy with their friends. This equipment will be utilised for years to come by more and more students.</p>

<p>Walton Priory Middle School</p>	<p>£443.00</p>	<p>Outdoor Area & Litter / Recycling</p>	<p>If you come past the school on a Wednesday morning, you'll see children happily walking along the road, hoes and rakes over their shoulders on the way to our new allotment, just off Tilling Drive, Stone. We've "borrowed" the allotment because of all the building work in school. The four new classrooms will be lovely when they're finished, but the builders have taken a lot of space during construction and our growing options have been limited. The KS2 Patio has been full of vegetables this year. Small raised beds, tended but our youngest Y5 and Y6 classes have done well. We've used them all in cooking lessons, with much excitement. The allotment has been planted with runner beans, radishes, raspberries, strawberries and lots of different herbs. The water supply is at the other end of the site, so much of each session is spent watering and water carrying. Mrs Williamson's Mum and Dad have an allotment in the same area and they've been a great help. We have volunteer school staff on a weekly watering rota through the summer holidays.</p>	<p>We have bigger plans for the allotment next year, with more classes visiting and a serious attempt at growing lots of vegetables. Despite the issues with space and disruption on the school site, we're really pleased at how we've managed to keep growing our vegetables and how much the children have enjoyed and learned this year."</p>
<p>Weston Road Academy</p>	<p>£450.00</p>	<p>Outdoor Area</p>	<p>Our successful bid for 2017-18 enabled us to plan 2 hours gardening per week with Matt from the start of the Spring Term onwards. The gardening club has run weekly over the lunch hour. Invites were issued to pupils through the school bulletin and it was also put in the school newsletter and on Twitter. the ground was cleared at first and a supply of top soil was located and transferred to the site from building work in another area of the school . It took several weeks to transfer the top soil and complete the weeding. Next ,early vegetables were planted and seeds sown in the greenhouse. It must be noted that no session was ever cancelled due to the weather – raspberry plants were planted in the snow! Later , weeding and watering has been done and fencing given much needed creosote.</p>	<p>I also encouraged several pupils who I felt would benefit from a gardening session ,including refugees. A steady number of pupils have attended – towards the end of the year it has evolved to include at least 10 regular pupils.. Working with the pupils. An additional session after dinner was also included for rotating groups of Years 7-9 pupils who would benefit from time spent outside. The pupils have benefited considerably – parental responses have included getting off the x box at home ,an increased willingness to go outside and increased focus</p>



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Woodseaves Primary Academy	£391.00	Outdoor Equipment	<p>The bulk of our funding was spent on gardening equipment as many children across the school years were interested in getting involved with gardening. Our first project was to plant a bee friendly, wild flower meadow. A huge pile of top-soil was delivered and our super little gardeners spent hours transporting some of this across the playground to planters (with our new barrows) and spreading the rest across an area designated as the 'meadow' (using our new shovels and rakes). Wow! What busy and determined workers they were! Despite the challenging growing season we have now harvested lettuces, broad beans and also sweet pea flowers. In the autumn we look forward to potatoes, carrots and onions. Not bad for our first growing season! The flower meadow also fared well with lots of bees being observed in the cornflowers. Weeding around school borders also provided lots more lovely material for our compost bins.</p>	<p>The children have learned lots about growing and also about responsibility for caring for the plants. All classes helped with watering and as we have no outside tap (next project!), all water had to be carried from inside in watering cans, again provided by SBC.</p>
Oakridge Primary School	£450.00			
Walton High School	£440.00			
Stafford Manor High School	£396.00			
St Austins Primary School	£450.00			
Blessed William Howard	£450.00			