



# SUSTAINABILITY SQUAD



## NEWSLETTER

Edition 2: Spring Term 2026



### Food Waste Recycling Bin

To ensure we recycle as much food waste as possible, we have now introduced a food waste bin to the playground for playtimes.

**Did you know that you can recycle your used batteries and printer ink cartridges at school? Just drop them off at the School Office, where they will be collected and disposed of safely.**

### Micro Climate Action Grant

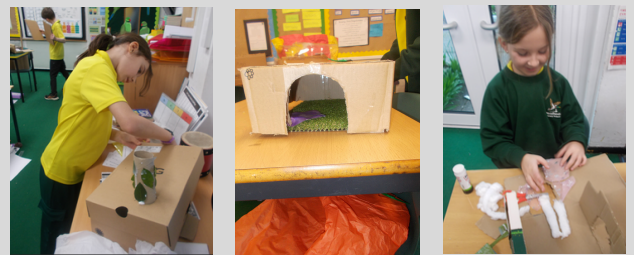
In the Autumn term, we submitted a bid to the Richmond and Wandsworth Micro Climate Action Grant to set up a community Litter Picking Hub at Meadlands. We have just found out that we have been awarded the full grant amount!

The majority of the funding will go towards purchasing additional litter pickers and handi-holders, allowing more children to be involved in litter-picking activities during lunchtimes.

However, our "Dream Big" goal is to establish a Litter Picking Community Hub for our families. There is currently no such provision in Ham, and this hub will provide families with the opportunity to borrow equipment during weekends and holidays. Together, we can keep the local community tidy and safe for animals.



### Design and Technology



It has been wonderful to see Years 4 and 5 completing their hedgehog houses and fairground rides, using recycled materials including cardboard boxes, toilet rolls and even moss that they have brought in from home.



### Cycle to Work Scheme

In our first newsletter, we shared that we had secured a grant to purchase bicycles for a new Cycle to Work scheme.

We now have five beautiful hybrid bikes and very happy staff members who cycle to work –including Mr Hepburn, who starts his day cycling through Bushy Park and along the River Thames.

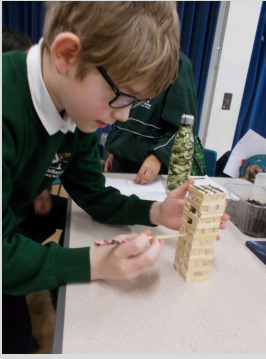


### Second Hand Bike Market

We held our first Second-Hand Bike Market with Peddle My Wheels on Wednesday, March 11th. A huge thank you to the bike donors, we had 13 bikes donated in total! All proceeds from the donated bikes (sold here or at future events) will go directly back to Meadlands.

## Eco Conference at Tiffin Girls' School

At the start of February, we were very lucky to be invited to Tiffin's Eco Conference. The whole day was organised and run by their Eco Council, and we had a thoroughly enjoyable time.



### Let's hear from the Sustainability Squad

- **Denis:** I learnt that within 2.5 hours of lettuce leaves appearing, they have already absorbed the amount of carbon dioxide produced when making the plastic container they were planted in.
- **Isabella:** I thought the toy swap was an excellent idea because it can give a new experience with a toy without spending money. It is also good for the environment as it is all about recycling toys.
- **Effie:** I learnt about wetland centres and that some of the plankton in the wetlands are so small you can only see them using a microscope.
- **Teddy:** I learnt that overfishing has a big impact on the environment. It means that bigger sea creatures don't have enough food to eat.
- **Spike:** I enjoyed playing Marine Jenga, which taught us how bigger animals at the top of the food chain rely on small animals to survive.
- **Ameer:** After this conference, I have decided to try not to waste food as it is bad for the environment.
- **Monty:** I learnt how important wetlands are for reducing flooding and that there are creatures who filter the water. I also enjoyed winning a point for my team when I explained what a siphonophore is—a bio-luminous creature.



### London Wetland Centre, Barnes

We learnt about the importance of wetlands in stopping flooding and how 70% of ponds have disappeared in the last year. We are very lucky at Meadlands to have our own pond, and we were encouraged during this presentation to try to build ponds in our gardens if we can.

We also learnt about the Ealing Beaver Project, which aims to bring beavers back to London. It is the first site of its kind and runs many free events, including morning bird walks, "Eager Beaver" volunteer days, UV discovery walks, and youth bird identification workshops. If you are interested in learning more or visiting follow this link:

<https://theealingbeaverproject.com/>

### Carbon Emissions

One activity we completed was working out the carbon emissions for travel and different recipes. We were reminded that eating locally sourced and homegrown food is better for the environment. For example, we worked out that a 100g serving of blueberries produces 0.8kg of carbon emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e), compared to 100g of carrots, which only produces 0.04kg CO<sub>2</sub>e.

**What we eat impacts the climate, and small changes can make a big difference!**