



November newsletter

2012

 **H**ello, the weather is getting colder and the nights are drawing in, so this newsletter includes a few autumnal tips on safe travel to school from the Council's schools travel advisor. Don't forget that there are many ways you can help the wildlife in your school grounds survive the winter weather. **Download** BHee's seasonal tips for wildlife gardening.

THANK YOU to all those who made the first BHee Eco-Schools conference in September such a great success. To see photos of the brilliant day please see the **BHee website**. Particular thanks go to Patcham High for hosting the event. If your school would like to host next year's conference, in October 2013, please email **Helen** as we will be starting to plan the event soon.

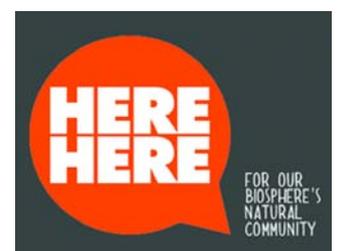


Helen and Katie

In this newsletter:

- **NEW Wildlife staff meetings and loan resources**
- **FREE marine workshops from Sussex Wildlife Trust**
- **Eco-Schools news from Brighton & Hove**
- **Competitions**
- **News from the Road Safety Team**
- **Sustrans' 'Big Street Survey'**
- **Green school resources from the Co-op**
- **Fairtrade fortnight**
- **Dates for your diary**

 **T**he next BHee Twilight, is entitled 'The Biosphere for Schools' and will be held on Wednesday 13 February from 4.00 - 5.30pm in the main hall at Dorothy Stringer School.



More details will follow but in the meantime take a look at the **Biosphere webpage** to get a taste of this exciting theme.

 **W**ildlife**Our South Downs**

This partnership between the South Downs National Park and Learning through Landscapes aims to connect children and young people with the National Park. They will be developing their own outdoor learning curriculum, and a list of outdoor education providers exclusive to the South Downs National Park. For further details see their website:

www.southdowns.gov.uk/learning/our-south-downs

To be involved in shaping this exciting project, please complete the online audit using the following links, for **teachers** and for **pupils**.

Using your School Grounds – NEW staff meetings

Do your staff need a bit of encouragement to use the school pond, wildlife area or local green space? BHee is offering **FREE staff meetings** to encourage whole school involvement in outdoor learning, by giving staff the enthusiasm, knowledge and ideas to use outdoors to enhance the curriculum. For full details contact **Katie**.

Infra-red cameras on loan

Ever wondered what goes on in your school grounds once the sun has gone down and the last weary teacher leaves the premises? Why not borrow an infra-red camera and see for yourself? You may discover some unexpected visitors, like the fox cubs caught on camera at Somerhill Juniors. To see the clip and find out how to borrow a camera, visit the resource section of the **BHee website**.

 **M**aking Waves

The Making Waves project, run by Sussex Wildlife Trust, is offering FREE to Brighton & Hove schools:

- marine based curriculum workshops
- assemblies about local marine issues
- loan of marine artifacts and lesson plans.

For more information or to make a booking, contact **Nikki Hills** the Making Waves Officer.



Eco-Schools update



Congratulations to Patcham Infants who are the latest Brighton & Hove school to be awarded the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag. We are proud to have 10 state-funded schools in the city with this award, and many more working to achieve it this school year.

Whether you're just getting started, or have been involved with Eco-Schools for many years, contact Helen for support and guidance. And don't forget that both the Bronze and Silver awards are self-certifying. Just check the criteria [online](#) and apply for your award!



Pupils from Patcham Infants School celebrate being awarded their Green Flag.



Competitions

FotoDocument photography competition

This competition has cash prizes for pupils and schools, and the deadline for entries has been extended to December 21st. So why not let your Eco-Committee loose with a camera at your next meeting?

All pupils who enter the competition will receive a certificate. One primary pupil and one secondary student, as selected by the panel of expert judges, will also receive an individual prize of £30, and their schools will **win £100** to spend on their Eco-Schools work.

Entered photos will be showcased on the BHee website, as well as the FotoDocument gallery. For more information click [here](#).

Win FREE solar panels for your school worth about £20,000!

South Downs Solar is running a competition for Sussex primary and special schools to help reduce the amount of energy they use. To be in with a chance of winning a free installation of solar panels, schools need to provide a measurable reduction in their energy usage over a three month period before the end of February 2013.

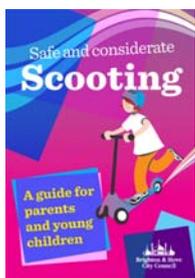
With winter drawing in, it's the perfect time for an energy reduction campaign. Take some meter readings to establish your baseline, then get the whole school involved in switching off lights and appliances that aren't being used, closing doors to conserve heat, and saving as much energy as possible. Why not incorporate **Switch off Fortnight** to give your campaign a higher profile? For more details click [here](#).



News from the Road Safety Team

Be seen when being Green!

The "Brighten Up Brighton" campaign reminds cyclists to use lights when it gets dark and encourages all road users to look properly and be seen in the darker winter conditions. To publicise this important message to your parents and pupils download a poster from the BHee website.



Safe Scooting

The Road Safety team is also offering free scooter training to 6 and 7 year old children in the city to increase skills improve confidence and awareness of other pavement users. Click on the image to view their new "Safe and considerate scooter guide for parents and children"

They have also developed **Park Safe and Walk Safe** resources for schools focusing on how to encourage safe driving behaviour outside the school and walking to school as a healthy option. For more information see their [website](#).



Sustrans' 'Big Street Survey'



Sustrans' Big Street Survey is a new resource enabling pupils to investigate the area around their school and create a manifesto on how to make their streets safer and greener. Working both inside and outside the classroom, it is a **two-hour curriculum activity** where pupils explore what they like and dislike about their neighbourhood, before using their manifesto to lobby decision-makers and elected representatives at national and local level to make their changes happen.

For more details, to watch a short film about the scheme, or to download resources, visit [Sustrans Big Street Survey](#).



Green Schools Revolution

Green Schools Revolution is a sustainability education programme produced by the Co-operative with resources, activities and trips to encourage school children from the age of five to 16 to think differently about the world around them. Click [here](#) for more details.



Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight, takes place from 25th February to 10th March 2013. Now is the time to start planning a themed day or week during this period, as part of the Global Citizenship topic of your Eco-Schools work. For lots of great teaching resources see the [Global Dimension website](#) and the [Fairtrade Schools site](#). Visit [koolskools](#) to find out more about Fairtrade cotton and the potential for using it for your school uniform.



**ARE YOU GOING FURTHER
FOR FAIRTRADE?**



Dates for your diary

Click on the links below for more information or check out our calendar at BHee.co.uk.

19th November to 2nd December - [Switch-Off Fortnight](#) (the POD)

21st January to 1st February – [Big schools' bird watch](#) (RSPB)

13th February 2013 – [Bhee Twilight](#)

25th February to 10th March 2013 – [Fairtrade fortnight](#)

4th to 10th March - [Climate change week](#) – register now!

11th to 17th March – [Waste week](#) (the POD)

If you have any news you'd like to share in the next newsletter or on our website, please contact [Helen Peake](#) or [Katie Eberstein](#).