



September newsletter

2012

 **W**e hope you are all feeling refreshed after the summer break and looking forward to the new school year.

We are very excited about the first Brighton & Hove **Eco-Schools Conference**, hosted by Patcham High School on 21st September. This event for pupil Eco Committees will celebrate all the brilliant work taking place in local schools.

September and October are the perfect time to get pupils outside to explore their school grounds and the local area. If you haven't already done so, why not book one of our free **Wildlife workshops** or our new Marine workshop?

To keep the BHee website looking good, we need *YOUR* photographs. Please email jpegs of any 'eco' activities to **Helen** (ensuring you've got parental permission for BHee to use them.) Many thanks to Patcham Infant School for some great pictures from their Eco Action Week (see picture right). You can see more photos from them on the **case studies page** of our website.



Helen and Katie



In this newsletter:

BHee Eco-Schools conference - for pupils and teachers

Wildlife workshops - book now for the Autumn term

Eco-Schools updates - start planning for your next award now

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BHee Eco-Schools conference



We are delighted that our very own Green MP, Caroline Lucas, will be joining us at the first Brighton & Hove Eco-Schools conference, hosted by Patcham High School on 21st September. This inspiring all-day event for pupils from your Eco Committee will include practical workshops as well as opportunities to meet and share ideas with other schools. The conference is from 9.30 to 2.45, and each school is invited to bring 6 pupils.



Wildlife workshops

There's still plenty to do in a wildlife area in Autumn. The BHee month by month guide to schools' wildlife gardening should help you plan how you best maintain your area. Find it in the **downloadable resources** section of our website.

Now is a good time to plan and develop your school wildlife area. It's the time to dig a pond, plant trees and hedges, sow wild flower seed and set things in place so it is ready to use by the Spring. For personal advice on how best to develop a wild area in your school grounds contact **Katie** at BHee.

Bring your science curriculum alive by looking closely at the wildlife found in your school grounds or local parks or downland. Book one of our free **Wildlife workshops**.



Marine workshops

Sussex Wildlife Trust are offering free curriculum-based Marine workshops, allowing pupils to discover what is so special about the seas off Brighton & Hove. For more information or to make a booking, contact **Nikki Hills** the Making Waves Officer.



Corkwing Wrasse
copyright - Robert Bailey / Sussex Wildlife Trust

 **E**co-Schools update

Pupils from Carlton Hill Primary School proudly display their Green Flag.



If you'd like to follow in the footsteps of Carlton Hill Primary and end the school year with a brand new Green Flag, **NOW** is the time to do a spot of planning. Eco-Schools assessors are very busy during the summer, so you need to submit your application form by Easter. **Helen** will be running a **twilight** later in the term, focusing on the Green Flag application process. In the meantime, [click here](#) for some pointers to help you plan.

Planning an 'Eco' day or week

A 'Green Day' or 'Eco Week' is a great way to raise the profile of your Eco-Schools work and get everybody involved, including parents and the local community. Now's the time to book one into the school diary. Many schools link with national events such as:

Switch-Off Fortnight	19th Nov – 2nd Dec 2012
Climate Week	4th – 10th March 2013
World Environment Day	5th June 2013
School Grounds Week	10th - 14th June 2013 (TBC)

For other options see the [Eco-Schools year planner](#).

Don't forget to involve your Eco Committee in planning your 'Eco' day or week. For more inspiration and ideas see [The POD](#).



Climate Week Challenge

The Climate Week Challenge takes place from 4th – 10th March 2013. This is a great chance to get pupils and staff thinking creatively about 'green' issues and get the school community engaged about the environment prior to an Eco-Schools award or assessment.

There are eight age categories, with different levels of sophistication expected, but everyone – from primary pupils to senior managers – will be given the same core task.

To participate, you must register your school in advance. Do this now on to the Climate Week [website](#) or by emailing your organisation name and contact details to challenge@climateweek.com

To find out more visit the climate week challenge [website](#) or telephone 020 3397 2601.



Brighton Peace and Environment Centre

If you are tackling the subject of global citizenship as part of your Eco-Schools work, then Brighton Peace and Environment Centre (BPEC) have some great resources which could help.

Their resource collection boxes are particularly popular, so if you would like to use any this year, then please let them know so they can be booked for you. See what's available on their [website](#), including the fantastic new resource collection box, 'Trees of Peace', focusing on the work of Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai and her work with the Greenbelt movement in Kenya. The collection (pictured right) includes beautifully illustrated children's books, DVD and teachers' handbooks.

Book ahead if you would like to borrow the box:
Email [Ruth England](mailto:Ruth.England@bpec.org) or call **01273 766610**



BPEC's teachers' resource centre is now available by appointment and can be used as a planning space for teachers. Just drop them a line to arrange a visit or go and browse what they have available.



FareShare Brighton & Hove



Photo: FareShare volunteers

Are you wondering how to give your Harvest Festival celebrations a new angle this year? Or planning a campaign to reduce your school's food waste as part of your Eco-Schools work? FareShare are keen to make links with local schools, and are offering to give an assembly or a run session in your school, focused around food waste and what they do as a local charity to tackle it.

For further information visit the [FareShare Brighton & Hove website](http://faresharebrightonandhove.org.uk) or contact them direct on 01273 671111 or info@faresharebrightonandhove.org.uk.



Dates for your diary

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

21st September - Brighton & Hove Eco-Schools Conference

1st to 30th September - Organic September (Soil Association)

23rd September to 23rd October - 2012 Seed Gathering Season
(The Tree Council)

1st to 31st October - International Walk to School Month
(Living Streets)

4th October - World Animal Day (Naturewatch)

27th October - Make a Difference Day (CSV)

27th October - Feed the Birds Day (RSPB)

19th November to 2nd December - Switch-Off Fortnight (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](#).

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