

The 3 Peas Newsletter

(Pupils Protecting the Planet)

July 2020



The five areas the school has covered as part of our Green Flag status are Biodiversity, Waste, Marine, Healthy Living and Litter.

Marine

Oceans and Rivers

Over the last few terms, Key Stage 2 have been learning about rivers, coast and oceans. In science each pupil researched the life cycle and facts about a particular fish which they shared with the class. They also learnt about whales and dolphins. During the last half of term, they learnt about coral reefs and how these are being damaged by humans. Global warming and pollutants result in coral bleaching, tourist sometimes damage the reef or disturb the fish living there. The children also learnt about the positive contributions that conservation projects are doing to help reefs. The children learnt how Individuals can help protect coral reefs by carefully choosing the suncream they buy to make sure it is ocean friendly. Many suncreams contain oxybenzone and other chemicals which pollute coral reefs. Pupils learnt about coral reef food chains and how a decline or increase in one species has a knock-on effect to all the animals living on the reef or near the reef.



In science key stage 2 carried out an experiment to demonstrate the devastating effects oil spills have on fish and marine birds.

"We were given a dish of water each. We dipped a feather in it and then shook the water off. The feather dried easily. We put a bit of oil on the water and feather. This time after we dipped the feather in the water it did not dry easily but stayed coated in oil. If a marine bird gets oil on its feathers, then it can die. After past oil spills, volunteers and conservationist try to help save the birds and clean them up but sadly a lot of them die"

Charlie and Tilda

In geography and topic, Key Stage 2 learnt about rivers around the world. Each pupil chose a river to research and presented the information to the class. The rivers they researched ranged from the River Severn to the River Amazon. They learnt about some of the negative impacts that humans have on the rivers. Fun facts were discovered about rivers such as the Severn Bore and the important eco habitats of the different rivers. Due to Covid 19 restriction, the class could not go on a group trip to a river, however the children visited different local rivers with their families instead.



In geography and topic, Key Stage 2 also learnt about soft and hard coastal defenses. They discussed the benefits and drawbacks of the different types of sea defenses. Some natural sea defenses such as sand dunes provide a great habitat for animals and plants. Iyannah and Charlie visited Berrow Sand Dunes with their families.

In the summer term, Class 1 were looking at Water. They looked at lots of pictures of different beaches and talked about the things they loved doing at the beach. Then they saw the sad consequences of single use plastic and what it was doing to God's creation. They felt very upset by seeing these beautiful creatures suffering and read in the Bible that we have a responsibility to care for God's creation. They decided to cut back on single use plastic to help try and make a difference by not using cling film but special bees wax wraps on sandwiches. Getting a reusable bottle to use as water bottle and not to keep buying plastic bottles. Some of the children even wanted to make posters to display at the beaches during the summer to remind people to recycle their plastic.



Key Stage 1 created some lovely paintings of oceans.

Biodiversity

Big Bird Watch

In January the school took part in the RSPB Big Garden bird watch and the Big School Bird watch. At school we noted the birds that landed in our grounds over the course of an hour. These included bluetits, robins, chaffinches and great tits. We also spotted magpies, wrens, pigeons, buzzards, sparrows and jackdaws later in the week.

Some of the children carried out bird spotting in their back garden during the Big Garden Bird watch weekend. Raffie made a poster showing all the birds that had visited his garden, which he shared with the school in assembly. The results from the bird watch were sent to the RSPB to help them with their citizen science. The Big Bird Watch is one of the world's largest wildlife surveys.



Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Management

In Biology lessons, Years 9 and 10 have been studying ecosystems and biodiversity.

In this topic we started off by looking at the different world biomes and their distribution, global and local factors. We then looked at the biosphere, the nitrate cycle and the biotic and abiotic factors. We then studied the UK's marine ecosystems and the diversity of tropical rainforests. We looked at how different plants and animals have adapted to fit their environment. We took Madagascar as a case study and looked at the deforestation, biodiversity and resource management. We also studied deciduous woodlands, its biodiversity, goods and services. We looked at how climate change has influenced this and how urbanisation and logging lead to deforestation. Our case study was the New Forest.

Molly

Litter

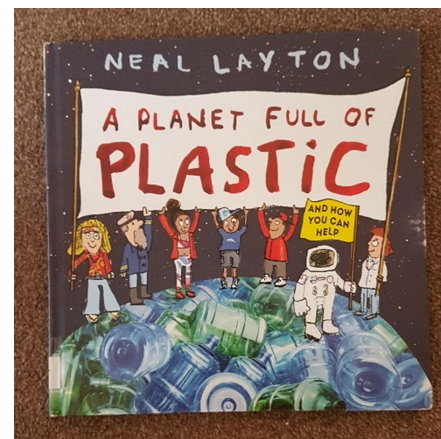
Litter Pick

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 the Keep Britain Tidy Litter Picks had to be cancelled at the end of March so pupils were unable to participate in the event. Some pupils did manage to do a litter pick in Westerleigh during July. Pupils noted that the majority of the litter collected was food packaging from takeaways/fast-food venues or energy/sugary drink bottles and cans. Pupils wrote to some companies explaining how they had found litter which was from a product that the company made or sold. They asked the companies to do more to make packaging biodegradable, get involved in litter picks and encourage their consumers to not litter.

Waste

Plastic Pollution

Children in reception year read a book called Plastic Pollution. They talked about the things that their family could do to reduce the amount of single use plastic they used and to make sure they always recycled plastic packaging or reused it in some way. They discussed the problem of litter on the ground and in the oceans



Sustainable Fashion

In textile lessons, key stage 4 pupils have been learning about sustainable fashion. Where possible old clothes and fabrics should be upcycled to create new products. Clothes should be repaired where necessary. The fashion industry should promote good quality products that are durable, Fairtrade and ethically made rather than fast fashion that is often produced unethically. Chemicals that harm both the planet and farmers are often used when growing cotton, so it is better to buy cotton that is produced organically than one that has been grown using harmful chemicals. All clothes have a carbon footprint to produce so consumers should think carefully about the items they purchase or make.

Upcycling

Key Stage 2 learnt about the Nairobi-based FlipFlop Recycling Company, where flipflops that had been washed up on the beach were collected, washed and turned into art sculptures, jewellery and other products. Key Stage 2 used scrap materials to create their own flip-flops.



Healthy Living

In February the children in Reception and Key Stage 1 made posters about handwashing properly. The pupils talked about the importance of washing hands before they ate, after they had been to the toilet and at other times of the day. The children watched a video demonstrating how hands should be washed correctly. The children practiced washing their hands whilst singing the "Happy Birthday" song twice.

Other Topics

Weather Hazards and Climate Change

Last term in Geography, the GCSE students learnt about weather hazards and climate change. We learnt about the natural causes of climate change as well as manmade causes and the greenhouse effects. We studied the negative impacts of climate change with a case study on the Maldives. We covered global warming's impact on food production, rising sea levels, glaciers and ice caps melting. We looked at how global warming has impacted weather patterns and cyclones. We saw how warmer changing air currents impact the formation and movement of cyclones. These can result in coastal flooding, intense rainfall, storm surges, high winds and landslides. Our case studies were Hurricane Sandy 2012 and Typhoon Haiyan 2013. We then studied droughts, human and natural causes and its impact with a case study of California 2012 and Ethiopia 1983 to present.

Water Resource Management

Our most recent topic has been water resource management. We looked at the problem of no/unsafe water in the developing world. There were some very shocking statistics: 650 million people don't have access to drinking water, 900 million people per day suffer from water related diseases, 2000 people die due to water problems! The three main factors to global water problems are: unsafe water, insufficient rainwater and water pollution; and how these could have an immediate and lasting impact on people's lives. We discussed various plans to solve water problems eg: desalinisation. We then used a case study of Las Vegas to have a role play debate on plans to solve water problems. We finished the topic by looking at sustainability in the UK and China.

TASTE

Primary pupils had a zoom assembly with Ben Udejiofo a trustee from the charity TASTE. He explained to the pupils how the charity helps communities in Nigeria to access safe drinking water and have safe sanitation facilities. TASTE drill boreholes, deliver water to remote villages, build latrines, educate communities and school children about the need for careful hygiene and sanitation. Several primary pupils have planned fundraising activities to raise money for TASTE.

