

West Yorkshire Eco Educators Network News

February March 2024

Hi to you Nature loving educators,

Spring is beginning to show green shoots – snowdrops are giving way to blackthorn and primroses, and bees are out seeking nesting places ...

I hope you had a good half term break. Our last meeting in January, we focussed on the RSPB Garden Birdwatch: over the next few months there is a lot of Green themed activities planned: I hope this newsletter gives you enough notice to join in some.

In addition, there are two meetings coming up in the next couple of weeks:

One is for **Heads of Wakefield schools** about the National Education Nature Park by the Service Director for Schools with the RHS National Education Nature Park, Regional Coordinator Jen Horseman who came into our meeting in November.

This meeting is focussing on getting schools to register with the **National Education Nature Park**, and for those eligible to access funding, informing them how, and something about alternative funding that could be available for other schools.

<https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk>

This meeting is online over lunchtime of Tuesday 12th March 12.00- 12.30pm and Wakefield Service Director for Education and Inclusion Nathan Heath has invited all Headteachers, particularly the schools on the list. He will host and introduce the meeting, so we hope to persuade as many headteachers as we can to attend.



National Education
Nature Park and
Climate Action Awards

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-park-and-climate-action-awards-funding-allocations#List%20of%20eligible%20providers>

We will be able to share the presentations about the National Education Nature Park for people outside Wakefield. Please encourage your Heads to attend.

Our West Yorkshire Eco Educators meeting is on Monday March 11th

Meeting ID [REDACTED]

Passcode [REDACTED]

There are so many themed days in the next few months so it will be good to pass on information and curriculum resources so schools can use them.

March 11th Big Plastic Count is the start of a week of activity (March 11-17th)

encouraging citizen science with a vast array of curriculum opportunities from Data handling, Geography, mathematical, artistic etc

<https://thebigplasticcount.com/schools>

I know many schools have done some fabulous work on Plastics, I know that two of the Multi Academy Trusts have a Plastic Free policy for catering etc



That week is also the start of Big Walk and Wheel Week (11th -22nd March)

<https://bigwalkandwheel.org.uk>



The aim of this week is to get as many children to walk or ride or scoot to school. Which of course helps with Health, Clean Air etc

News from across the Network

Stuart S updated us about a meeting in York on 11th January, which was a rethink of the York Climate Commission. Representatives attended from a very wide range of different organisations in York. A number of speakers were invited to give short presentations about the work they have been doing on Climate Action, to inspire ideas and discussion. Stuart's talk had focussed on activities relating to Climate Education and Green Skills and Careers and he made a number of suggestions of ways to promote Climate action in York schools.

Sarah let us know about a **Secondary Conference the Secondary Eco-Committees are organising at Leeds Civic Hall. 9:25am- 2:40pm. on 25th March** For the flier see here.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mC7x7uDxvPRa78vpmc1Ofqk6itgcZR2/view?usp=sharing>

It's being organised by a teacher from Cardinal Heenan in Leeds, and she is inviting anyone from any secondaries in West Yorkshire, with Leeds DEC, Climate Action Leeds, and Leeds Learning Alliance.

They are happy for up to 10 students from each school welcome. All the details are on the flyer on the link above. email hannah@leedsdec.org.uk.

Sarah was asking for everyone to please share with anyone in a high school. Leeds Civic Hall is a large prestigious, and City Centre location so is demonstrating commitment of Leeds City Council to facilitate this.

Stuart S also gave us an update from UKSSN some of the great work being done in Northumberland by Dr Meryl Batchelor a science lead teacher. She is part of the UKSS Network

Do have a look at the website.

<https://www.transform-our-world.org/home>

<https://www.transform-our-world.org/ukssn/ukssn-news/regional-approaches-to-sustainability-in-schoolslearning-from-challenges-and-opportunities-in-northumberland>

There are further links on their website to Clean Air Day

Thursday June 20th Clean Air Day

<https://www.transform-our-world.org/programmes/clean-air-day>

In Wakefield we have plans for the weekend before Earth Day 20 April: There will be an Eco Fair at the Hepworth, and **the Eco Educators will have a stall.**

We thought we could have a display the National Education Nature Park so we can encourage any school staff, or pupils visiting to make sure their school is registered.

We will also take the display of last year's Walking Relay, with the petition and explanation of what the children were asking for.

We will also be using these resources at the NEU Conference and Sheffield for the Schools Climate Education South Yorkshire Conference.

We have also been invited to go Tree planting at Pinderfields Hospital over the next few week, email us for further details

Dates Coming Up

What can you do in your school for Earth Day? 22 April 2024

April 22 Earth Day

<http://www.greenschools.net/downloads/Earth%20Day%20Ideas%202015.pdf>

May 11 With Banners Held High in Wakefield

June 8-16th Great Big Green Week

<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GBGW24-Schools-Packs-Preview-A4-Portrait.pdf>

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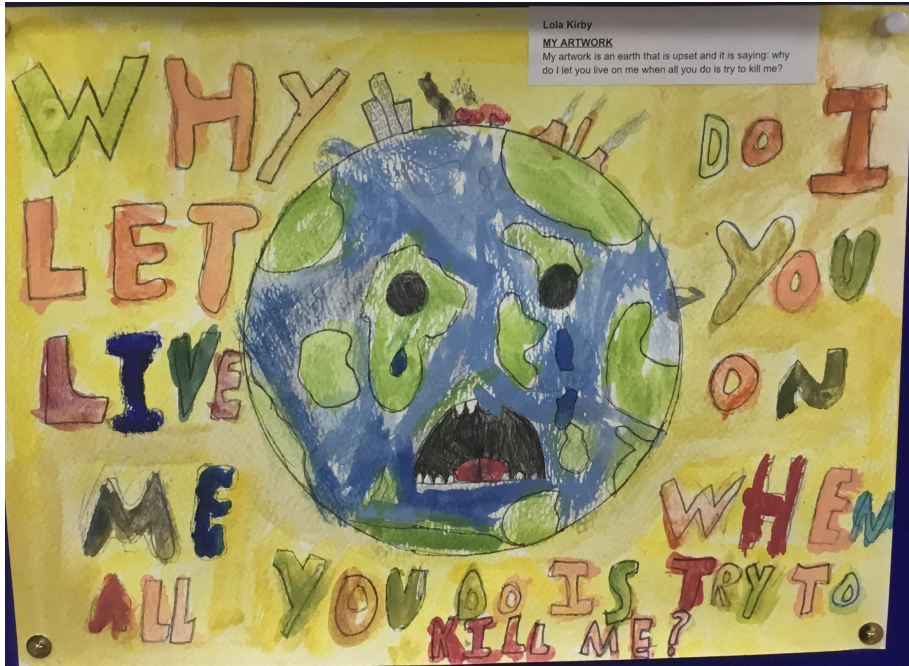
Ella Kissi Debra - <https://www.ellaroberta.org>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/event/clean-air-day-2024>

We do hope you can join us at our next meeting
on Monday March 11th at 7-8pm online Meeting ID 957 5932 8988
Passcode NEU

See you then!

Best wishes, Catherine and the rest of the Eco Educators



(Thanks to Sarah for these pictures – they went to COP28 and were shown and spoken about in meetings)