



St Mary's CE Eco Newsletter



Spring Term 2026

Welcome to the first Eco Newsletter.

We are excited to share that our school is taking important steps towards becoming an Eco School. As part of this journey, we are applying for the prestigious Green Flag Award, which recognizes schools commitment to the environmental sustainability and positive change.

Our focus will include projects that promote sustainable travel, encouraging everyone to think about greener ways to get to school—whether by walking, cycling, car-sharing, or using public transport. These efforts are part of a broader plan to reduce our carbon footprint and make our school community more

environmentally friendly.

Together, we can make a difference! Look out for updates on our progress from our Eco Warriors and ways you can get involved in helping us achieve this important goal.



Eco Warriors

Eco-Schools is a global programme that helps schools become more sustainable and teach environmental responsibility. It follows a seven-step, pupil-led process where students form an Eco-Committee, review the school's environmental impact, and create action plans on themes like energy, waste, water, biodiversity, and transport. Schools that complete the programmed can earn the Green Flag Award, an internationally recognized symbol of environmental excellence. The goal is to empower young people, reduce the school's carbon footprint, and inspire positive change in the community.

Big School's Bird Watch

We joined in the Big Schools' Birdwatch and had a great time spotting and counting different birds around our school. It was a fun way to learn about nature and discover which birds live near us. By taking part, we helped the RSPB collect important information about wildlife and showed how much we care about looking after the environment. This activity also supports our school's eco-friendly goals by encouraging us to protect nature and think about sustainability.

Junior Road Safety Officers

Our school's JRSOs are Year 6 pupils who help promote road safety and encourage active travel among their peers. They lead by example, sharing important safety messages through assemblies and noticeboards, and organizing fun activities like quizzes and competitions. By supporting initiatives such as "Walk to School Week," they help make our journeys safer, healthier, and more environmentally friendly. Look out for their updates and get involved in their campaigns!

Modeshift Stars

Modeshift STARS is a program that helps schools encourage safe, healthy, and eco-friendly ways to travel. It gives awards to schools that promote walking, cycling, and using public transport instead of cars. Our school is involved because we want to make journeys safer, reduce traffic, and help the environment. By taking part, we can run fun activities like "Walk to School Week," do travel surveys, and set goals to make travel better for everyone. The aim is to cut pollution, keep us active, and make our trips to school safer and more enjoyable. We are really pleased to share with you that we have just been awarded with an "Excellent Travel Plan."

Environmental Dates

Great Big School Clean 21st March— 6th April 2026

World Water Day 22 March 2026

Earth Day 22 April 2026



Park and Stride

Have you ever considered Park and Stride?



Park and Stride can help combat congestion and cut CO2 **emissions** in and around the school gates. It is not only a great way to reduce the carbon footprint, but it also embeds green thinking amongst the children. It can also play a part in improving poor air quality, by reducing the number of vehicles travelling to the school gates.