



Great British Spring Clean is back!

What's on this month?

- **Great British Spring Clean**
- **Surfers Against Sewage**
- **Plant free trees**

We hope you had a fabulous green

Christmas! This new year we've got loads of great ideas to kick start the new term.

With the Great British Spring Clean just around the corner, and the brand new Plastic Free Schools programme from Surfers Against Sewage, this month we're thinking all about litter!



The Great British Spring Clean is back! This March we'll be gathering an army of litter heroes to clean up Dacorum once again as part of Keep Britain Tidy's annual litter picking campaign. Last year 11 schools and scout groups in Dacorum got involved, clearing up an incredible 109 bags of litter and enabling us to talk to over 900 children about the problems it causes! The dirty facts show that 2.25 million items are littered on the streets of the UK every day, damaging our wildlife and spoiling our local green spaces. Inspire your class to tackle litter by organising a Great British Spring Clean litter pick, you could even get your whole school involved!

Joining the Great British Spring Clean can help you work toward the Waste topic of the Eco-School award, and ties in with the Pod's Waste Week theme which is also running in March. It's

Have you signed up to the [RSPBs Big Schools Birdwatch](#) this January?

It's not too late! Let us know what your class has planned for 2018, we'd love to know!

also a great way to link in with the curriculum covering topics such as 'Everyday materials' in KS1 and 'Living things and their habitats' in KS2.

We can provide litter picking sticks, recycling and refuse bags and deliver a litter and recycling talk beforehand to introduce the topic to your school. [Get in touch](#) to borrow equipment or organise a talk.



[Sign up to the Great British Spring Clean>>](#)

Free trees with the Green Tree Schools Award

Get outdoors with the Woodland Trust's [Green Tree School Award](#) scheme. A massive 7,000 schools are already registered! Spark your pupil's interest in woodlands, trees and wildlife through curriculum linked activities. This scheme is recognised by Eco-Schools, so it's an easy, structured way to work towards your next award.

Some activities are quick, such as delivering a special assembly using their assembly kit, others, such as tree planting take a little longer. The woodland trust offers [FREE tree planting packs](#) to schools, applications are open from 15 January and are on a 'first come, first served' basis, so make sure you're straight in there to bag some for your class!

There are loads of tree packs to choose from, from hedge to wild harvest. Choose a pack that will fit with the space you have,



and the learning objectives you want to get from your trees- some could even provide your school with free craft supplies or fuel in a few year's time. Curriculum linked [resources](#) are provided to make the most of your tree pack. The tree species in the 'wildlife pack' are great for bringing woodland wildlife into the school grounds, while the 'wild harvest' pack would provide edible fruits.



This scheme is free, and open to communities as well as schools, so scout groups and nurseries are welcome to apply!

[Sign up to the Green Tree Award scheme>>](#)



Plastic Free Schools

Surfers Against Sewage have just announced an exciting new schools programme to tackle plastic pollution! Get your class involved in this national campaign that could have a big impact on your school, and the environment.



Introduce the programme to your class with this [video](#). The first step is encouraging your pupils to boycott single use plastics in your school. This could be in the school kitchen, switching to reusable cutlery, or encouraging your pupils to refill their bottles in school rather than bringing in disposable bottles.



Next you'll form a trash mob! This is the part your students can really throw their energy into. A trash mob is a 'high energy litter pick' around the school grounds. This is a great way to get your pupils active and outside, whilst teaching them the importance of respecting their environment. This could be coupled with the Great British Spring Clean litter pick so that you are taking on two national campaigns in one go! Making it a great easy way to work towards your Eco-Schools Waste topic, or to link to those environmental curriculum topics.



[Get in touch](#) to borrow free litter picking equipment, or arrange an assembly to introduce the topic to your class.

Sign up to receive your pack full of ways to introduce the Plastic Free Schools programme to your school. This programme is open to Scout groups as well as schools, so get involved!

[Sign up to Plastic Free Schools>>](#)

Did you miss us?

If you're new to the SEED, but want to read more, you'll be pleased to know that all past copies are now available on our website.

[Find past copies of the SEED>>](#)



Eco-Schools

This year we want 100% of schools in Dacorum registered to Eco-Schools and reaching for their next award! That means we only need 12 more schools to take part. Where is your school in the league table? If you want to register or are working towards your next award level, but don't know where to start, get in touch and we can help.

Eco-School Award Level	Number of schools	Percentage of schools in the Borough
Green Flag	3	4%
Silver Award	25	36%
Bronze Award	15	22%
No Award	11	16%
Total Registered	54	78%

[Find out more about Eco-Schools >>](#)

Crafts

Celebrate National Nest Box Week (February 14-21) and invite wildlife onto your school grounds by creating the perfect bird box for nesting birds. Find instructions by logging into [The Pod](#) and searching for 'build a nest box quick activity'. For free advice on the best spot for your box, and species specific bird-box building instructions, visit the [BTO website](#).

Build a bird box



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