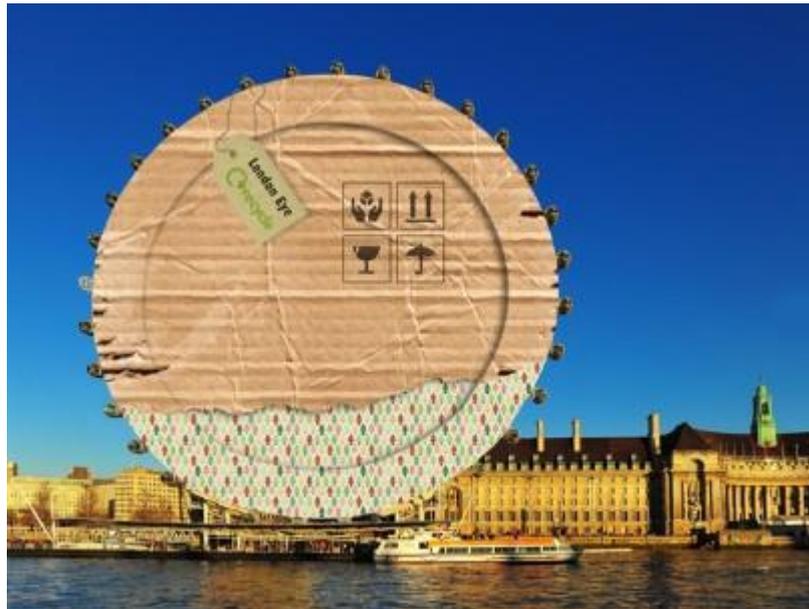


## Have a Green Christmas!

### What's on this month?

- **Have a Green Christmas with your class**
- **Sign up to the Big School Bird Watch**
- **Hold a gift exchange**



Card used at Christmas could wrap around the London Eye almost 50,000 times!

Did your school take part in the Switch Off Fortnight we featured in the last SEED? If so we'd love to hear how you got on!

Also, have you signed up for your [free potato growing kit](#) yet? If not, it's not too late to register and receive your pack containing everything you need to grow two batches

The festive season is under way! Here's our top tips for a less wasteful, greener Christmas with your class.

Spend those end of term afternoons recycling all your scraps into eco-friendly Christmas cards and decorations. There are some great ideas on Pinterest, from reindeers made from [handprints](#) to [Christmas trees](#) made from bits of ribbon.

It's estimated around 1 billion Christmas cards could end up in landfill in the UK each year! In Dacorum all Christmas cards can be recycled, unless they have glitter or 3D embellishments on them, which need to be removed first. Remind your class to recycle all their cards and wrapping paper in their blue-lidded bins. Or better yet, save them for next year! Making Christmas

of potatoes. We're looking forward to hearing how the planting goes in the New Year.



decorations out of recycled materials is a great way to reuse odds and ends you'll have already. If you have any cards stored from last year, you could re-use these as gift tags or to make Christmas bunting. These fun [Christmas trees](#) use materials every classroom has; pencils and scrap paper!

Alternatively take your class for some fresh air with a scavenger hunt around the school grounds and collect natural materials like fallen twigs, pinecones and leaves for your decorations. You could make these [rustic reindeer](#) or simple [glittery pinecones](#) to put on the Christmas tree. This activity would tie in well with teaching some tree identification skills, check out this handy winter [twig ID guide](#) from the Woodland Trust.

[Tell us about your green Christmas >>](#)

## Watch out for the Big School Bird Watch!

The RSPB's annual 'Big School Bird Watch' is back for 2018! Get your class outdoors and take part in this national survey, running from 2 January- 23 February 2018. [This video](#) gives an insight into how your day of citizen science would look.

All year groups can get involved, right down to [early years](#). The resources are tailored to different age groups, meeting learning objectives from the national curriculum in each year. Don't worry about being bird savvy yourself, the counting sheets show clear images of each different bird, and if there's one you're not sure on you can use this handy [identifying tool](#) .

Entering the data you've collected is really easy, just get the website up on your interactive white board and get the pupils to



do the hard work for you! It's a great opportunity for them to experience every stage of science, from the identification, to recording, to entering the data and seeing it become part of an important nationwide survey.

Alongside the bird count, there are extra activities; labelling parts of the [bird](#), recipes for different bird feeder treats like this festive [nut log](#) and also crafts. Try making the black bird snapper or a big bird watch poster! Remember to sign up by 31 January!



**Sign up to the Big School Bird Watch!>>**

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## Hold a gift exchange



**Organise a present swap >>**

Over Christmas, it's likely that some of your pupils, their parents and school staff may get duplicate or unwanted presents that someone else might enjoy. How about holding a present swap in the New Year, where unwanted gifts can be brought in and swapped for something they really do want. This is a great way to teach your pupils about the importance of reuse in the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, repair, recycle, dispose).

You could hold a small event with just your class, or get the whole school involved, read our handy guide [here](#).

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# Eco-Schools

Next year we'd love to see 100% of schools in Dacorum registered to Eco-Schools and reaching for their next award! Where is your school in the 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 >>](#)

## Let us know what your class will be up to this Christmas!

Throw back to 2014 when Boxmoor Pre-School made this incredible igloo out of recycled milk bottles. What will your class be doing? We'd love to know!

[Share your Christmas activities with the next SEED>>](#)



# Crafts

## Heavenly Christmas crafts!

Try out these adorable [Christmas angel decorations](#) with your class! You don't need any special materials, just an old toilet roll and some scrap paper. You could ask your pupils to bring their toilet rolls in the day



before.

Why not get inventive and try making a Santa Claus, reindeer or the three kings! You could also use old scraps of wool or felt for the hair, and cut up plastic tubs for the wings. We'd love to see your creations, send us your pictures!

[Make a Christmas angel>>](#)

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