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January 2021

## What's on this month?

- **Green Community Grant (Application Deadline: 31 January)**
- **South Hill Primary School Win Eco-School Award**
- **Save the Date! Great British Spring Clean 2021**
- **Bringing nature into the classroom—free online sessions and resources throughout January and February!**
- **Take on the RSPB's Wild Challenge at home or at school!**

## Make your school more eco-friendly with a 'Green Community Grant'!



**'Think global and act local' for your school to be awarded a pot of up to £2000!**

As part of our Climate and Ecological Emergency work, Dacorum has launched the borough's first ever ['Green Community Grants'](#).

The new grant scheme is specifically designed to support projects in our community which benefit the environment, as well as Dacorum's residents. The purpose is to encourage and enable

local groups to *'think global and act local'* whilst tackling environmental challenges.

Projects must demonstrate that they will actively help towards the mitigation of the Climate and Ecological Emergency locally within Dacorum. This could be with projects that reduce carbon emissions; increase active travel; improve biodiversity; increase sustainability; or raise environmental awareness locally.

The environmental projects must also engage with as many people as possible from within the local community – schools are perfectly placed to be able to meet this criteria. The projects with the greatest impacts will be awarded the funding.

Groups can obtain a maximum grant of £2000, from a total pot of £10,000.

**The Green Community Grant scheme is open for applications until 31 January 2021.**

Successful projects will be notified in February, with grants being allocated by March.

[Find out more details and apply!](#)

Please note that litter-picking projects will not be deemed suitable for the grants; if you are interested in support with litter-picks, please [email us](#) for more support with this.

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## **Congratulations to South Hill Primary School for achieving their Silver Eco-School Award!**

**Last term, South Hill Primary School were awarded with a [Silver Eco-Schools Award](#) - a fantastic achievement!**

Ms Tomsa, the South Hill Primary School Eco Leader told us about the process of applying for the award, *"The first requirement for obtaining the Silver Award was to form our Eco Warriors team and the interest was overwhelming. Pupils had to apply for this job position – recruiting in this way ensured that people who are truly passionate about the environment will have the opportunity to actively take part in small school projects – we now have 18 Eco Warriors in total."*

*"Another award requirement was to have an up-to-date noticeboard and to keep the school community informed via different media. We update our noticeboard every week and write articles and post pictures in our Friday's newsletter and on school Dojo or Twitter. I am*

*hoping to instil love and respect for our natural world and to enthuse the children to take our message beyond the school gates."*

In autumn, the school took part in the Great British September Clean – Dacorum were able to support this by [loaning litter-picking equipment](#). Within a month they collected 20 bags of rubbish and recycling! They plan to continue with regular litter picks.

One of South Hill's Eco Warrior's, Hannah, told us, *"As a team we worked to improve our school by doing many different things. Some of these include litter picking around the school. We did this because it's very important to have a clean environment and it's also important because animals get trapped in litter. We also have meetings once a month to discuss what we can do to change our planet. Some of the things we came up with were recycling old pens, turning off lights and making sure everybody puts their rubbish in the right bin."*

To improve recycling in the school, the team set up [Terracycle](#) points for specialty items that wouldn't ordinarily get recycled, such as pens and wrappers. This allows them to act as a collection point in their community for otherwise non-recyclable items. The more they collect, the more rewards (and money) they can earn – a win for the school, the community and the environment!

The Eco Warriors run other school-wide projects such as using food waste from snack time for their garden compost bin and monitoring and reporting on the school's monthly energy usage. They are planning more projects for the year, including planting 15 trees at the end of February, with the aim of getting their [Green Flag Award](#).

Inspired by South Hill's story? Think what your school could achieve in 2021! If you're not an [Eco-School](#) yet, signing up is quick, easy and free! Once you've registered, you will have access to free resources and information from the largest environmental awareness programme in the world.

We are on a mission to help transform every school in Dacorum into an Eco-School. Achieving an [award](#) can be easier than you think - your school can be eligible by simply completing some, or all, of the [seven steps](#) that ultimately lead to the Green Flag Award. Well done to all the schools that have already registered, as well as to those that have put in the work and received bronze, silver or Green Flag awards.

**Eco-School awards are valid for two years**, so be sure to keep up with your eco projects. Has your status lapsed? You can regain your bronze or silver award status within just one term. If you'd like to check your school's status or want help achieving an award, feel free to [get in touch](#) and we will be happy to help!



[Register as an Eco-School >>](#)

## Save the Date! Great British Spring Clean 2021



[This year the Great British Spring Clean](#) will be taking place throughout May and June (later in the year than usual).

Last year schools struggled to take part in this national litter-pick due to the pandemic. Yet having clean, safe and thriving green spaces proved to be more valuable to us than ever.

So make a note in your calendars and let's make this year's Great British Spring Clean even bigger and better than ever before to make up for 2020 being rubbish (pun intended)!

As always, we will be offering our support with [free school talks](#) and loaning litter-picking equipment – all of which can count towards obtaining your next [Eco-School award!](#)

## Bringing nature into the classroom

During January and February the [World Wildlife Foundation](#) (WWF) is running a number of online sessions called [Conservation in the Classroom](#) - a new initiative to engage



students with nature, conservation and science.

With global species loss, environmental destruction and the health of the planet making the headlines more and more, your students are probably starting to ask some difficult, but important questions. You can help answer these with help from WWF's free resources.

An impressive amount of content has been made for early years, KS1 and KS2. Plan and tailor your science lessons to engage your children with the many different features of the environment.

Follow up these online lessons with their [Learn to Love Nature](#) resources, which covers topics such as ecosystems, pollution, sustainable lifestyles and more!

From general [primary school resources](#) to more specific lesson ideas, such as showing your students what their [environmental footprint](#) is, instil a wonder and appreciation of nature for the next generation.



## Take on the RSPB's Wild Challenge at home or at school!

**Need some home-schooling lesson inspiration? The Wild Challenge is here to help!**

The [Wild Challenge award](#) is a specially developed suite of activities designed for schools to engage children with nature and provide practical learning opportunities.

There are 24 activities to choose from, each helping children to connect with and learn about nature. There are bronze, silver and gold awards to



achieve depending on how many activities they do.

Wild Challenge provides a perfect framework for learning and is open to all ages and abilities. Mainly designed for primary aged school pupils in mainstream education, it can easily be adapted for Home Educators, pupils with Special Educational Needs and Early Years.



You can work through the award levels as quickly or as slowly as you like, and there's something to do whatever your needs, location and whatever the weather!

**Looking for a more focused lesson?** The RSPB is running their [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) from 29 – 31 January. As the event is taking place over the weekend this can be a great opportunity to engage both kids and parents.



You can also plan virtual lessons that keep your classroom wild, utilizing the Wildlife Trusts [live web cams](#). Get a close up view of seals in Cumbria, a bats roost in South Devon, barn owls in Essex and more! This compilation of different animal live streams gives a sneak peek into the secret lives of wildlife all around the UK.

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## 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 >>](#)



# Crafts

Teach your students about their local wildlife with a themed lesson on animal tracks.

Show your students how to [identify different animal tracks](#) that have been left in mud or snow around the school grounds or in their near-by green spaces at home. The RSPB have a great guide on how to make a [cast of animal prints](#). This can be a fun and educational activity for in-person or virtual learning.



[Email us](#) a short description and pictures of your animal tracks, or any other eco activities your class have been up to and you could be featured in the next issue of the SEED!

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