SUSTAINABILTY AT OAKWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

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ODYSSEY COLLABORATIVE TRUST



Head Teacher Message

"At Oakwood, sustainability is about much more than caring for the environment. It is about helping our children develop responsibility, pride and a connection with the world around them. I am incredibly proud of the enthusiasm our pupils have shown through recycling, composting, energy-saving initiatives and caring for our outdoor spaces."

Upcoming events

- **Snack**Tember

  This September, we're joining Snacktember! Children will enjoy Tasting Tuesdays, trying new fruits and vegetables, and Veg-Out Thursdays, bringing a healthy snack from home.

- **Second Hand** September

  This September, we're taking part in Oxfam's Second Hand September, encouraging children and families to choose pre-loved items, reduce waste and make sustainable choices.

- **Walk**Tober

  During International Walk to School Month, we'll encourage children and families to walk to school, supporting healthy lifestyles, reducing emissions and caring for our planet.



Learning Together, Growing Stronger

Throughout the year, our sustainability efforts have gone from strength to strength. From the enthusiasm shown in our first composting project to the many activities and ideas that have followed, our children have embraced every opportunity to learn about and protect the world around them. Their energy, creativity and determination have been truly inspiring.

More importantly, we have built something that reaches far beyond individual projects. Sustainability has become part of the culture of our school. There is a genuine buzz around environmental action, with pupils eager to contribute their ideas and make a difference. Together, we are developing a community founded on empathy, responsibility and a growing passion for protecting our planet.

Message from the Sustainability Lead

"Every great change begins with a small step. At Oakwood Junior School, our sustainability journey started with composting but it has grown into something truly special: a school community united by a shared commitment to caring for our planet."



Helping Our Childen Thrive:
The Rolls-Royce Partnership



We were incredibly fortunate to partner with **Rolls-Royce**, whose generosity and hard work have helped transform some of our outdoor learning spaces. Volunteers worked tirelessly to clear and revitalise our Forest School and allotment areas, as well as tidy and enhance our courtyard space.

Their support has made a tremendous difference, creating safe, welcoming environments that our children can once again enjoy and learn within.

A huge thank you to the Rolls-Royce team and our staff volunteers for giving their time, energy and enthusiasm to transform our outdoor spaces!

A Day of Teamwork & Transformation



The **Rolls-Royce team helped** transform our outdoor spaces, digging up old mounds to create future flower beds, while our Headteacher joined in the hard work!



An unused seating area was cleared to create space for a future allotment, providing children with **opportunities** to grow food, learn and connect with nature.



Our staff joined the Rolls-Royce volunteers, getting stuck into the hard work of digging and clearing, working together to **transform our outdoor spaces** for the children.



Together, we cleared years of accumulated waste, filling a huge skip and creating a fresh, open space ready for new sustainable developments.



IQM Flagship Award

Our recent IQM Centre of Excellence review praised sustainability as a fully embedded part of school life, highlighting the passion and commitment shown by both pupils and staff. Pupils are actively leading change through initiatives such as classroom recycling, food waste composting, litter-picking teams and energy-saving projects.

The report also recognised the positive links between sustainability, wellbeing and outdoor learning, including our participation in the National Education Nature Park Wellbeing Research Project.

> ***"If children don't grow up knowing about nature and appreciating it, they will not understand it. And if they don't understand it, they won't protect it. And if they don't protect it, who will?"***
>
> -Sir David Attenborough

Get Involved!

Every contribution makes a difference!

We'd love you to be part of our sustainability journey! If you would like to support our ongoing development of outdoor spaces and sustainability projects, please get in touch through the school office or Class Dojo.

SUSTAINABILITY SNAPSHOTS



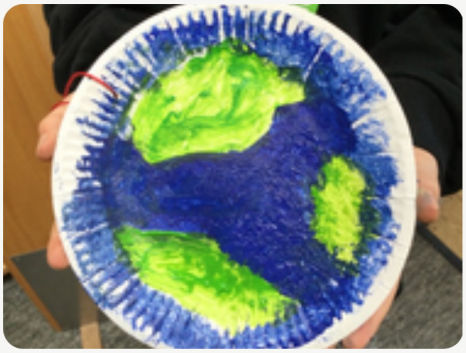
During **Children's Mental Health Week**, we explored outdoor mindfulness through nature hunts, storytelling and colour collecting, helping children connect with nature and wellbeing.



We took part in the **Derby Free Trees Initiative**, with children helping to pot and care for young trees, developing responsibility and appreciation for nature.



We joined **The Great Big School Clean**, collecting 10 bags of waste, and continued caring for our environment through lunchtime litter-picking clubs throughout the year.



On Earth Day, we explored 'Our Planet, Our Power' through a poster competition, painting our own Earths and creating windmills to celebrate renewable energy.



We kicked off Mental Health Week with a colourful **Fruit & Veg Café**, giving every child a healthy snack to enjoy and promoting healthy minds.



During Mental Health Week, children planted **sunflower seeds to take home**, encouraging mindfulness, responsibility and showing how caring for nature can support wellbeing.



To celebrate **World Environment Day**, children created the biggest Eco-Brick, learning how reusing plastic can reduce waste, protect our planet and encourage sustainable choices.



We held a **successful Book Sale**, with books donated by the Salvation Army, raising money for World Land Trust while promoting reuse, recycling and sustainable choices.



Parents and carers joined us to create **Clay Plant Pots** with their children. Together, they painted their creations before taking them home to enjoy.