

ESDGC /Global Learning June 2019 update - Leader Miss Teresa Brunt

It has been another busy but productive year on the ESDGC journey. It never fails to amaze me the enthusiasm and energy that the whole school community shows. The Action Plans constructed during the Autumn Term based on 'Pupil Voice' and views at the school have led to the creation of a number of exciting enrichment projects. .

Updated information on the Autumn Term Action Plan

i. Fairtrade Cotton

Our Fairtrade School dedication continues and the principles of a 'fair' world are instilled from an early age within the ethos of our school. We continue to support Fairtrade football, rugby and walking events. In the Autumn Term, during a whole school assembly the children learnt about the devastation caused by Cotton production. The Year 2 pupils, as part of their *Global Goal 'Quality Education'* were keen to work in partnership with 'Koolskools' to provide Fairtrade cotton uniforms for both pupils and staff as an option. Year 2 will soon have a link on the Schools Website and shall be promoting the reasons for Fairtrade Cotton.

<https://www.koolskools.co.uk/>

ii. Orangutans - Palm Oil

As a school we are inspired and led by the children's commitment to making their world a better place. During an Eco Council meeting, pupils spoke of a hard hitting advert seen on television involving a Orangutan fighting a bull dozer. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihPfb3OYT_c

We used our Critical thinking skills to discuss '*Why is this happening? Who is to blame?*

In response to the children's passion, we contacted our loyal supporters in the charity 'Size of Wales'. Our friend, Nigel Little, provided a Workshop and a Key Stage 2 assembly on what we can do to help. Avoiding Palm Oil products was something the children felt that they could do and would like to fund raise in Autumn 2019.

iii. Water Bottles/ Milk Bottles/ Plastics in the Oceans- Can we turn the tide?

Following our initiatives during 2017-18 on Global Goal 'Life below the Water' we pledged to continue the battle against plastic wastage.

Pupils have not heard back from the Council regarding Milk bottles but during our Platinum Status renewal in June the children asked the inspector about this. Bethan Evans Phillips, Tidy Wales ESDGC inspector is keen for us to write directly to Gareth Morgan and other members of the Council to try to overturn the use of the individual plastic milk bottles.

We as a school have significantly reduced our plastic usage and have spoken to the '*Friends of Johnstown School*' to not use items such as the plastic eggs or other plastic items whenever possible. We are looking forward to working with McDonalds on new initiatives to reduce plastic.

Christmas Tree Up-Cycle

The 'Christmas Tree Celebration' at Llanllwch Church was outstanding. Mrs Judy Haines helped and advised the Eco Council and Eco Club on design ideas. This community project encapsulated the benefits of an inter-generational project. This project has led to a strong partnership with the Church and with Johnstown WI. We now host a 'Crafting' fortnightly session the community. Skills are shared and the oracy and PSD benefits of such sessions are magical to observe.

LA Recognition of our work - 'Walk the Global Walk'

Our work on the United Nations Global Goals continues to be recognised by the authority as sector leading and goes from strength to strength. This year we have been involved in the Carmarthenshire 'Walk the Global Walk 2018-2021' campaign as a Global Lead for KS 3 and 4. The project is promoted by the region of Tuscany and Oxfam Dolen Interculture and co-funded by the European Union. The initiative connects France, Croatia, Cyprus, Wales Scotland, Portugal, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Botswana and Albania.

We have worked on a number of community based projects improving the area for the residents of the town. Our school has a number of exciting community developments including;

Creation of Johnstown Journey

As a forwarding thinking school and with the development of the new curriculum, we have been working on embracing the Global Goals as a vehicle for learning. As stated within the Donaldson Report, our fundamental aim is to *'help children understand their role globally, promote sustainability and become ethically informed citizens of Carmarthen, Wales and the wider World'*. We have combined our Heritage work with our ESDGC commitment. We are working on the establishment of a Global Walk around our community promoting Bio diversity and local history.

Guide Dog for the blind reading initiative

We continue to support the Guide Dogs for the blind and have well established links with Jo and Janice Powers and their Guide Dog 'Suzi'. We have created a reading initiative to aid reading development at the school. We have seen significant interest and more home learning practise as a positive consequence.

Partnership to Cartref Cynnes/ Towy Care Home/ Johnstown WI and Llanllwch Church

We have created links with various groups within the community and have celebrated the diverse nature of our community. These inter- generational projects aid Personal and Social development as well as enhancing curriculum knowledge.

AWARD Recognition

We continue to hold our Platinum Status as an Eco School, In our recent inspection the children, as always impressed the inspector on their knowledge and understanding of the World around them. She commented on them being ethnically aware of local and Global issues around the World and

their enthusiasm in creating a more sustainable, fair and better world. The Eco Inspector commented '.... I can see that ESDGC is well embedded in the ethos of the school'. We retained our Outdoor Learning Award and the highest Fairtrade Status. We have recently used this information to apply for a substantial grant to help develop our future plans.

Air Pollution

Year 5 Eco Councillors correlated the data on the traffic pollution levels and presented to the whole school and Governors. The data has been analysed by Year 5 pupils and they are looking at using this to receive 'free trees'. The trees are very good filters for pollution.

School Grounds

Our school grounds have seen numerous changes since our ESDGC Journey commenced many years ago and need redevelopment. We draw upon the support of local businesses and the community for contributions. However, we continue to need help with maintenance and up keep of the school gardens. It is a constant battle to try to keep on top of the weeds.

Charity Work and Whole School Events

Johnstown Primary School has strong partnerships with numerous outside agencies. We have drawn on a wealth of knowledge and expertise to enable our children to flourish in their understanding of the wider world e.g Water Aid, Fairtrade in Football, Dolen Cymru, Polio Eradication, WWF, Christian Aid to name a handful.

We ran a successful 'Veg Power' campaign as part of our commitment to healthy eating promoting various vegetables on a weekly basis. We ran a competition supported by the Healthy School team. We held a Veg Soup Kitchen for staff and the pupils had a 'Superhero themed Vegetable day.

