

Rights Respecting School Award

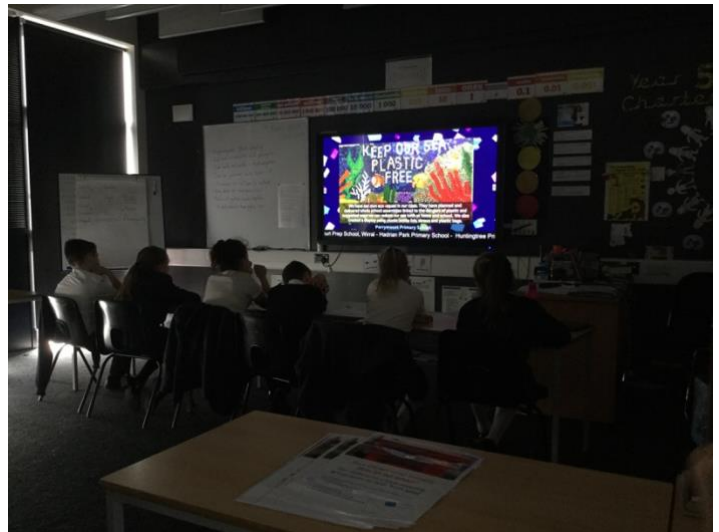
29.03.2019

SDG Focusses:

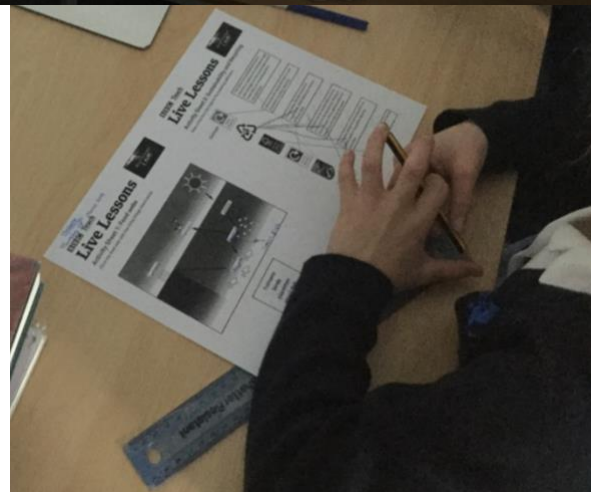


Blue Planet Live Lesson

This week, some classes at Leybourne Chase took part in the BBC's Blue Planet Live lesson. The lesson involved the children learning about food webs and food chains and how the ecosystems are joined up together. The children also discovered threats to marine life, such as over-fishing, plastics and micro plastics and this led them onto explorations of climate change and the heating of oceans.



The video allowed children to link their learning to both their rights and the Global Goals for sustainable development. The children made reference to Goal 14 Life Below Water and discussed how we need to change our actions to impact on positive change.





Letter from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

On Thursday, the school received a letter from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs thanking the children for their postcards that they sent to the Secretary of State about the issue of air pollution. Below is a copy of the message that they received:

Dear Students of Valley Invicta Primary School,

Thank you for your postcards of 19 March to the Secretary of State about air pollution. I have been asked to reply.

The Government is always pleased to hear from young people like you who are keen to improve the environment.

The Government has pledged that this will be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it. Clean air is one of the most basic requirements of a healthy environment for us all to live, work, and bring up families.

Air quality has improved significantly over recent decades and will continue to improve thanks to the action we have already taken. However, we know more needs to be done because there is increasing evidence of the effect that poor air quality has on our health, on the economy, and on our environment.

The Government takes air pollution very seriously and is committed to supporting ways that will help to ensure that our air is cleaner. Our recent Clean Air Strategy published on 14 January, sets out some of the ways that will help us to clean up our air. The World Health Organization has praised our strategy as "an example for the rest of the world to follow".

The Government is spending money on improving air quality and cleaner transport, through The UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations, which includes £3.5 billion of investment in air quality and cleaner transport. The Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy published in 2017, sets out the Government's plans for cycling and walking, with an ambition up to 2040 for making cycling and walking the natural choices for short journeys or as part of a longer journey.

Electric cars is another important area of focus for the Government, in July 2018, the Government published the Road to Zero Strategy, which sets out our approach to reducing emissions from road vehicles and has committed to end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040.



Cars are not the only source of air pollution. Many activities that are important for our everyday lives such as generating power, heating homes, transport, industry and agriculture also emit dangerous air pollutants. The UK has made commitments to control air pollution from these sources. Air pollution does not respect boundaries; action at a local level is essential to clean up air across local communities. We will introduce new powers for local Government to use Clean Air Zones to tackle emissions from all sources, not just transport.

Thank you again for writing to the Government about this important issue, I hope you continue to keep up your interest in protecting the environment.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Wilson
Ministerial Contact Unit