

# Going Green at St John's Primary School

This year, our year 5 cohort have taken on the challenge of going green and getting growing. It all started with a change to the Autumn year 5 geography curriculum, introducing a topic all about sustainability.

Firstly, the class looked at energy and the differences between renewable energy and non-renewable energy. They created posters to promote saving energy across the school.



After this, the lessons looked at aspects such as food miles and they researched how far food may have travelled to get to their plates. They thought about the impact this may have on the world. It was decided by the class that they should start growing food in the school grounds to promote sustainability in the community, which led them to a second

project undertaken in the Spring term. This project is the getting growing part of the plan and involves turning parts of our school grounds into an allotment area.

To help the class understand sustainability and caring for our planet better, they had two talks from experts in the field.

The first group who came to speak to the school was Exeter Science Centre to tell ks2 all about their Operation Earth and We are Guardians project. After an assembly to the whole school introducing climate change, year 4, 5 and 6 took part in workshops to learn about their role as guardians of the world and how humans play a part in caring for it and damaging it as well as learning all about biodiversity and its importance. The children all wrote pledges to share how they would take part in caring for the earth.



Next, the children heard from Earth Energy Education, who shared more information about renewable energy sources. Year 5 investigated the areas of the school that provided the best light and put this into context through learning about solar energy.



One of our staff built a solar powered model of a house, which year 5 then used outside to further test the power of the sun.



As part of the continued effort to be kinder to our planet, year 5 have helped the site manager keep the site a little greener. Rather than just putting everything into the normal waste bin as had happened previously, he organised for the school to have separate recycling bins and year 5 helped to start the system by collecting the rubbish.

The year 5 team also take part in regular litter picks in the school to make sure the grounds are well looked after.



Our next step is to start the Better Planet School's Eco Crew, which the year 5 cohort will begin in June 2024.