

BLACKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Introduction

Blackwood Primary is currently a Green Flag Eco School. The school incorporates ESDGC into the curriculum in a number of different ways including Eco Schools Targets, Schemes of Work, ESDGC events and fun days, assemblies and our latest project- 'The Wacky Fruit and Veg Co-op'.

'The Wacky Fruit and Veg Co-op' is a business run by a group of Y5 and 6 children. It involves buying bags of fruit and veg from a supplier and selling them to parents. The project provides a number of benefits to the school and wider community. It teaches children the structure of a business and how it runs, how to work as a team and overcome problems, it provides opportunities for cross curricular links to Numeracy, Literacy, PSE e.t.c and it promotes healthy eating within the school and wider community. In a recent survey, the children found that their customers eat more fruit and veg now than before the co-op opened.

'The Wacky Fruit and Veg Co-op' was set up in conjunction with 'Rural Regeneration', 'Careers Wales Gwent', the 'Public Health Team' and the 'Healthy Schools Team'. The children applied for different positions in the business e.g. Managing Director, Marketing Manager, Finance Manager, IT and Sales Manager, Buying Manager. The children attended interviews and were appointed. The Buying Managers found a supplier, the IT Managers set up spreadsheets to take orders, the Finance Managers ordered a money box and receipt book. The Marketing Managers carried out Market Research and eventually advertised the launch of 'The Wacky Fruit and Veg Co-op'. The launch was attended by a number of prestigious guests including governors, parents, the Deputy Health Minister and members of the press. 'The Wacky Fruit and Veg Co-op' has been going from strength to strength ever since.



Some of our other ESDGC achievements include having a 'Go Green Day' to launch Eco Schools in our school. We have an Eco Committee that meets weekly; they review the schools current Eco achievements, set new targets and help to implement them. We currently recycle paper, plastic, tins, cardboard and ink cartridges. Classes have litter picks, make posters, design bins and give assemblies on Eco issues. Our school grounds have a variety of different play areas, wildlife areas, a secret garden and Eco log circles. We have an allotments were children grow fruit and vegetables (with parental help and support). We have promoted healthy eating through '5 a Day Tuesday' and are currently promoting school meals. We have a school Travel Plan, we run a walking bus during summer months and also have green cones outside the school gates to restrict parking and make the road safer. We also run a 'Kerb Craft' scheme and have Mrs Tufty visit the children to talk about road safety. We have made efforts to encourage children and staff to switch off lights and are currently working on reducing our gas bills. We have low volume tanks in our toilets to save water and have made and displayed posters to encourage people to turn off the taps. We have raised money and collected produce for children in developing countries through sponsored events and Harvest Festival. We have also invested in a number of books, stories, maps and games to enhance our coverage of Global Citizenship. Staff

meetings have been used to inform staff about ESDGC issues including Fair-trade, Global Citizenship, Eco School committee meetings, recycling and eco foot printing. We also held a school fete- 'Fete For The Future' to raise awareness within the local community. We sold used books, toys and clothes, we sold fruit kebabs, had a recycling fashion show and recycling race, we also had recycling and fair-trade information stalls. The day was a great success.

Partners involved

Careers Wales Gwent, Rural Regeneration, Public Health Team, Healthy Schools Team, Parent/Governor helpers.

Problems Encountered

Some problems were encountered with the supplier. The children learnt that the produce sold needs to be good quality or customer numbers will drop.

Future Plans

To be supplied organic produce, as the children's research has shown that parents are prepared to pay more for it.

