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coordinator@meen.org.uk

Don't forget:
MEEN's Spring Green
Teach Meet - pg 2.

RSPB's Big Schools
Birdwatch
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/schools-birdwatch/>

RHS funding for
Greening Grey Britain:
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/communities/campaigns/greening-grey-britain>

Thanks to Awards for
All and Peoples
Postcode Lottery for
supporting Save our
Soils.



Save Our Soils

MEEN and Debdale Eco Centre are working with Manchester schools to explore the problems of impoverished and contaminated soils in our urban school grounds. The aims of the project are to learn about poor soils, to work on improving them and to share any knowledge gained with members of the community. Although the project has only just begun the Eco teams involved have already discovered all kinds of strange and surprising treasure in their school soil.



Learning about soils

Medlock Primary pupils didn't have to dig deep before discovering bricks and tiles in their school grounds and, using historic maps, they identified the buildings that used to stand on the school site, including their old school.

Ravensbury Primary pupils however, found a good layer of top soil had been added to their grounds when they had been redesigned, although digging in local soil they discovered it was not so healthy. Both schools shared in the discovery of sticky

Manchester clay which gave the pupils from Clayton ideas to discuss about the history of their area.

The project engage the teams with soil experts at the University of Manchester, provide a visit to a brownfield building site which dealt with contaminated soil and take a trip to Debdale Eco Centre to learn about composting and improving soil, amongst other things.

However, the big challenge will be to plan and execute some improvements to each school's soil then to share what they have learnt with their communities.

Spring 2018 Next Green Teach Meet

**Thursday
15th March 2018**
Doors open 3.45pm
finish at 6pm

**Hosted by
Button Lane
Primary School**
Northern Moor

**Calling all
Environmental
educators for a
networking session**
– bring resources,
questions and
stories to share

**Learn about growing
fungi in school and
LESS CO2 (tbc)**

**These sessions aim to
support educators
interested in Eco
Schools, outdoor
education and ESD.**

**Please contact Raichael
to book your place at:
coordinator@meen.org.uk**

Network News Greater Manchester's Mayoral Green Summit

The Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham, pledged in his manifesto that: "Within a year of the election, we will host a Mayor's Green Summit to declare a new, accelerated ambition for Greater Manchester on the green economy and carbon neutrality. In the meantime, we will ask experts and city stakeholders to lead a public debate on what that new goal should be."

To this end the Green Summit is being held on 21st March 2018 and, to get input from the public to inform the Summit, the Mayor has asked people to complete a simple survey.

This survey could easily be completed by children, whether as individuals, as an Eco Team, or as a class. There are plenty of smiley/sad faces to click and plenty of options to add comments, suggestions and innovations. It only takes a few minutes for an adult to complete, although with a group discussion it would no doubt take longer.

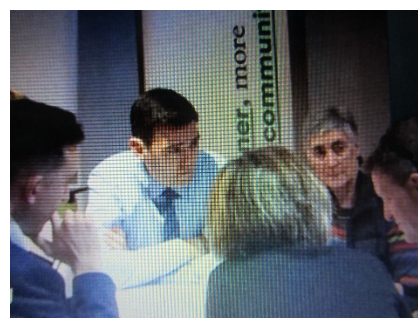
If you know anyone old or young who is living in GM and would be interested forward the link. **For an Eco Team activity go to:**

<https://pollev.com/GreenSummit>

Green Summit Listening Events

Furthermore, the organising team are running 'listening events' to inform the Summit. These are being organised by local authorities, local groups and on specialist themes, such as 'food' and 'retrofitting buildings'. The aim is to imagine what a 'Green' Greater Manchester looks like and consider what we need to do to make it happen.

To ensure young people's voices are heard MEEN has been trying to galvanise our network.



Andy Burnham talking to green experts at a hustings event prior to being Mayor.

So far Canon Burrows C of E in Tameside has agreed to host an event to hear what their local community has to say and a Stockport Primary is keen to participate.

If you are interested in organising a 'listening event' in your school please contact Raichael at coordinator@meen.org.uk.



MEEN has an email network for Eco Coordinator's to share information across Greater Manchester.

MEEN also runs twilight network meetings for Eco Coordinators to share good practice.

We host the Greater Manchester ESD Forum which is aimed at educators who go into schools and deliver ESD. The aim is to share good practice in sustainability education and support each other. Go to: www.meen.org.uk for more information.

MEEN can be found on Facebook: www.facebook.com/meen.org.uk

And at: www.twitter.com/meenorguk

Get in touch! We want to hear your stories.

Network News Green Teach Meet Autumn Twilight 2017

The Autumn Green Teach Meet at Grange School in Gorton brought together schools from Greater Manchester to learn about changes in the Eco School criteria and to hone some gardening skills around bulb planting.



The session began with a school tour looking at Grange school's SEN facilities and their outdoor spaces, whilst organic bulbs from Unicorn Grocery, free of the usual bee damaging fungicides, were given away by MEEN.

Thank you to Anne Gunning from the RHS who kindly shared her bulb planting know-how and to those who participated in the Green Teach Meet including The Woodland Trust, Sow the City, Tree Station, Stockport Hydro and those schools who shared their good practice.

Thank you to pupils and staff at Grange School for hosting a great event and baking lots of tasty scones!

Network News WE Schools

WE Schools is a free active citizenship programme inspiring young people to identify local and global issues that spark their passion and empowers them with the skills to take action. Delivered in more than 3,400 schools across the UK, the programme provides teachers and students with free curriculum-linked lesson plans, a calendar of campaign ideas, and a named WE Coordinator. They offer educational resources to schools wanting to tackle environmental issues through the WE Take Charge campaign, and can provide grants to develop eco projects in school or the community.

Please email Manchester primary schools coordinator, Morwenna James, at morwenna.james@WE.org or high schools coordinator, Amelia Willis at amelia.willis@WE.org to get involved.



By taking part in WE Schools learners can earn their way to WE Day, an annual celebration event that recognises young people's contributions to their schools and communities.



Funding opportunities

For Stockport schools



Stockport Hydro Ltd, a community owned scheme, has been generating renewable energy power on the River Goyt since October 2012.

£2,000 is available from our Environmental Challenge Fund for up to 10 projects which are of environmental, community or co-operative nature and take place within the SMBC boundary.

Deadline for applications 31st January 2018

For more information and application forms go to:

www.stockport-hydro.co.uk

Email: info@stockport-hydro.co.uk or phone: 0161 427 0411

Philosophy for Children

Level One (validated by Sapere)

Dates: Wednesday 7 March and

Thursday 8 March 2018

Trainer: Topsy Page

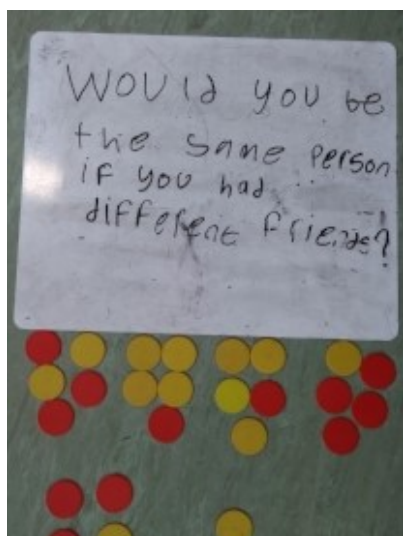
Venue: Manley Park Primary School:

Whalley Range, Manchester

Course fee: £300

Philosophy for Children is an active learning technique which gives children an opportunity to discuss big ideas and difficult topics in a safe and structured way. Promoting high quality talk, critical thinking and reasoning, P4C has been proven to improve academic outcomes for children, develop their social skills and resilience. As a participatory methodology it gives children a voice and is increasingly recognised as something which can transform educational settings.

To book email topsy@topsy.page or call 07961 631340 or for more information about P4C go to www.sapere.org.uk.



Free help: International Schools Award

St Peter's High in Gorton is offering FREE professional support to a Manchester school wishing to apply for the British Council's International Schools Award (ISA).

Embraced by thousands of schools in 31 countries, the ISA helps schools embed international activities across the curriculum. As many schools already do this, the ISA is one of the easiest quality awards to achieve. It is a cost-free quality standard which can also provide evidence for the Global Citizenship element of Eco School accreditation.

The consultant will visit your school and work with staff to identify schemes of work, complete the ISA application form and offer advice on collecting evidence.

Due to funding limitations this offer is on a first come, first served basis. If interested contact James Ridgway at RidgwayJ@StPetersHigh.com

For more information about the ISA, visit:

<https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/about-programmes/international-school-award/levels> or

https://www.britishcouncil.org.lb/sites/default/files/international_school_award_handbook.pdf