



Green Flag 2026

Oak Cottage Primary School

Award Level:
Distinction

Focus Topics:



Your Greatest Overall Success:

Was community engagement, particularly your collection of electronic waste from the wider school community. Recycling 8,000 electronic items is a staggering achievement, especially given the size of your school! This is an action that will help our planet massively, reducing demand for new materials, and preventing hazardous materials harming wildlife! From experience, we know that engaging the community is not easy, but by doing so you extended and maximised your impact - please pass on our compliments to your electrical army too!

We Also Loved:

- Your newly created wildlife area is a standout success. The before and after photos show the amazing improvements you've made. By developing this space, you are welcoming wildlife into your school and helping pupils build a connection with nature and understand how to protect it. Installing a wildlife camera is a great idea, it evidences the impact of your actions while boosting engagement and excitement. Pupils (and staff!) must have been thrilled to spot hedgehogs, badgers, and all the other wildlife you've captured on camera.
- Like all of your projects, your work around food is highly impressive. We particularly appreciate how you empowered pupils by involving them in discussions with stakeholders. Catering staff also took ownership by engaging with parents, combining for an excellent community effort. Eating less meat is one of the simplest and most effective ways to reduce carbon footprints, and placing plant-based options more prominently is a clever way to encourage planet-friendly choices. Tracking food waste is key to reducing it, and your move away from single-use plastics covering sandwiches shows how easy an eco-win can be!
- Linking your curriculum to the Sustainable Development Goals shows how committed teaching staff at Oak Cottage are to sustainability. This approach helps pupils understand the importance of considering people and planet in all aspects of life. We particularly enjoyed the PowerPoint and examples of pupil work, it's clear that using environmental issues as a stimulus is not only raising awareness but enhancing learning across a wide range of subjects. The Year 4 letter about palm oil in toothpaste was particularly persuasive and congratulations to Year 2 for creating such eye-catching and powerful Save Our Planet posters!
- Your ability to engage others in your Eco-Schools journey is outstanding. Thank you for sharing your newsletter, the Eco-Committee section stands out for its positive tone. It is informative, inclusive, and celebratory, presenting environmental action as something to be enjoyed together. This attitude clearly runs through your wider work and has undoubtedly been one of the keys to your success.
- Your engagement with a local MP is another huge moment of celebration, meaning your Eco-Schools work is not just impacting your school and local community, but also influencing our nation's decision-makers! We're delighted you had the opportunity to visit Parliament as a result of your amazing efforts, and we hope to see some of your pupils working there, as decision-makers, in the future!

Next Year, Why Not Try...

Carrying on! We totally understood that in busy school environments time is a valuable resource, especially when delivering such large projects, but you've made incredible impacts, and we can't wait to read about what you take on next. Truly, this was one of the best applications of 2026, with many more things we could highlight if we had more space (sustainability governor, wonderful parent quote, powerful Eco-Code, engagement with your wider trust... so much!)