

# Congratulations Downsview Primary and Nursery School

Fantastic work Mrs Sanchez and the Downsview community!

**We are very pleased to tell you that you and your Eco-Committee at Downsview Primary School have been awarded an Eco-Schools Green Flag.**

## We reviewed your application and noted the following:

It's wonderful that you have appointed such a large and enthusiastic Eco-Committee, this shows your school's excellent commitment to both the programme and the eco-cause. We love your fair approach to appointing Eco-Committee members. It's great to see that you had such a group of eager, committed volunteers. We love that you kept minutes from your meetings and that they helped to track, guide and prompt your activity, and thank you for including the excellent examples. It was great to see that young people were responsible for completing those meeting minutes – this helps them develop new skills! This is a mature and professional approach. Great work!

It was wonderful to see how completing your Environmental Review helped to raise the level of awareness in your school and helped your Eco-Committee to identify the issues and spot gaps in your school's existing environmental activity. But equally important is that it helped you to recognise the great work that you were already doing. This helps to keep up the good activity whilst making you feel empowered to do different things. We love this! We love the range of activities that you and your Eco-Committee planned for delivery. The fact that they cover both indoor (energy & recycling Monitors in every class, a 'switch-off' campaign with awareness posters, removing paper towels, composting food waste, Plastic-Free Fridays and recycling pens, glue sticks & crisp packets) and outdoor (building bug hotels, bird boxes & feeders, joining the Big Plastic Count and investigating the installation of solar panels) activities is excellent. Wow, what an ambitious list!

It was also great to see accountability and a monitoring scheme clearly marked in your Action Plan, although we were surprised there was no Evaluation system in place. Great work though! You've clearly embedded the ethos of the Eco-Schools programme far and wide in your school! We love your ambition in tackling some of the areas where you scored lowest in the Environmental Review. This shows you have a confident Eco-Committee dedicated to maximising their impacts. We're really impressed at how you've linked environmental issues to a variety of curriculum areas. We loved seeing the excellent examples of your Eco Calendar and photos of pupil's work, posters and displays. This is a great example of layering in sustainability and climate change into your studies. We loved reading about how you incorporated learning about global issues not only into the Geography and Science Curriculum (most common ones) in your school, but also into a wide variety of other areas. Great work!

Your Eco-Board is great. Your board is incredibly visual and engaging and promotes your work in a very attractive way. It's also good to see your Eco-Committee members on the board. This is a great way to raise their esteem and make their schoolmates feel like they can approach them and get involved with your Eco-Schools work! We love how active your Eco-Committee was in communicating their activities school-wide with both assembly and class feedback and use of the school newsletter and social media as well as the Eco-board itself. These all combine to make a great approach! We love that your pupils have even taken their great work well beyond the school gates by donating a small library of their unused books to a village in Ghana with the Joshua's Praise charity – excellent work!

We are certain that your pupils will have greatly benefitted from your involvement with such outside organisations as the Big Plastic Count, Croydon Climate Action, City Surfers, Garden Girls, School Food Matters (who we are delighted to hear gave you a grant for a vegetable garden), The Great Big Green Week (who we hear gave you a grant for your own COP26 related Eco Fair) and Croydon Community Energy (who are working with you to install solar panels next year) – outstanding!

The parent quote is a great testament to the work that you are doing with your Eco-Committee, that they are taking their Eco-Schools work home with them and getting their families on board is something to be proud of! I hope you and your Eco-Committee take great pride in your achievements, when listed it's almost astonishing how many there are – however, the real improvements to your school environment with the biodiversity, energy and waste saving and recycling initiatives and, most of all, your superb charity-related work outside your school (we loved that) all nicely stand out! Everyone involved should be incredibly proud of the changes they have made. We thought your Eco-Code was brilliant! It was punchy and really creative, setting out tangible and accessible calls to action your whole school

can get behind! Congratulations to everyone for the great work you have managed to do, earning your Green Flag with Distinction in style. You should all be very proud of your work and the application you have submitted!