



## Take Education Outside This Summer

Finally, spring is here and summer is on its way, which means that (hopefully) the days are getting brighter and warmer.

This creates the perfect opportunity to take your students outside for a wealth of different benefits from enhanced academic learning, to making nature connections to health and wellbeing. Over the last 12 months, we have heard so much about the benefits of being outdoors, yet education seems to be stuck inside classrooms and behind desks. And yes, I do agree that there is a place and time for both!



However, having missed out on so much, the summer term offers the opportunity to push the boundaries, test new ideas, change our ways of working and challenge the status quo to be able to re-engage students in the joys of social interaction and make the most of their educational opportunities. There is nothing that cannot be taught in a playground, under a tree, or on a field, from the core subjects of Maths, English and Science to Art, History and RE.

There are so many new and free resources for schools to access, including PECT's very own and reimagined [Nature's School](#), that there has never been a better time to take education outside.

If you are feeling apprehensive about taking learning outside for the first time, or your school would like more information on how this can be done, PECT's experienced and friendly education team can help to support you in this - just get in touch.



Best wishes,  
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## Join our Outdoor Learning Hub

**The hub provides teachers and other professionals the opportunity to share ideas, resources and good practice, as well as providing members updated information on outdoor and sustainable learning for students.**

**This new facility is brought to you by PECT and The Nene Park Trust, bringing together years of experience in one place to offer the best support for schools.**



## School Development Plans

Northborough Primary school is on a mission to enhance its school site to create a nature-friendly outdoor space and approached PECT to help them achieve their vision.

Following the pandemic, schools have had to work in different ways, and the use of outdoor space has been key in being able to deliver both learning opportunities, as well as meet the

mental and physical needs of students.

Northborough who are part of PECT's Eco Charter, have planted 180 trees, which will be counted as part of the Forest for Peterborough, and a variety of wildflowers to help enhance their outdoor area and encourage pollinators to visit. Students have also built bird and bat boxes, created natural bird feeders and have started to grow their own food.

Mrs Jackson, Deputy Headteacher at Northborough School, said:

“Through our Eco Charter work with PECT, we have been able to develop our outdoor space. We are including nature corridors to enhance biodiversity by attracting more wildlife to the site, a cathedral of trees for the children to be able to take part in outdoor lessons, a den building area for free play, as well as areas which will be left for nature to thrive in.

“After PECT’s support, we are much better equipped to use the outdoor space in a more focused way. Their input, support and knowledgeable staff have already had a positive impact which we hope to keep building upon.”

Mr Mallott Headteacher at Northborough School, said: "It's been great to see how the outdoor space has evolved to the benefit of the children."

Staff have also taken part in training so they can fully utilise their outdoor space for a wide range of activities which encourages students to learn about their natural environment.

"All the students have really loved helping to create a sustainable area that they can benefit from in both their learning and in free play at break times. The school have also set up a 'Planet Protector' group and have started to come up with further ideas on what else they can do next. We are excited to see how their journey develops and how the school will take further steps in becoming more sustainable.

PECT'S Eco Charter is leading the way to embedding knowledge of sustainability issues into classes to inspire the next generation of forward-thinking students. Creating school development plans is just one way in which we help schools realise their full potential and challenge existing behaviours to be able to make positive changes.

If your school would like to get involved or find out more about what else we offer please get in touch at [education@pect.org.uk](mailto:education@pect.org.uk) or visit the [PECT website](#).

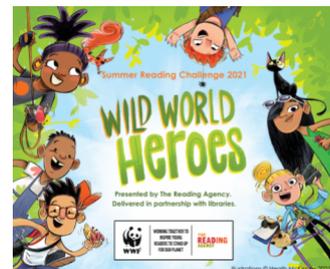
**If your school has a story to tell or you have an enthusiastic green team or student - we want to hear about it for our next newsletter.**

**Please send your article along with a picture to [education@pect.org.uk](mailto:education@pect.org.uk) - don't forget to tell us your name, school and project name.**

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## Summer Reading Challenge Goes Wild!

Get ready for Wild World Heroes, arriving online and in your local library this summer.



Pack your bags, you're heading for Wilderville!

It's a pretty cool place, but there are lots of things that the Wild World Heroes can do to make their town even better for the people and animals that live there.

Join the Wild World Heroes for the Summer Reading Challenge and discover how you can make a difference to the environment too.

This year the Summer Reading Challenge is teaming up with WWF for a very special nature-themed Challenge that will inspire young people to stand up for the planet!

Wild World Heroes will feature amazing books, awesome rewards, and plenty of ideas for taking care of our environment.

Students can sign up for the challenge at their local library or online.



## Inspiring Action Through Reading

The3engineers want to inspire and educate the next generation of problem solvers, so much so they have created some free content for teachers to use with their students.

They have written a set of fun rhyming children's books named 'The Adventures of Scout'. As 'Scout' goes on her adventures, she helps others through her kindness and thoughtful problem-solving, to take action.

Readers are encouraged to join 'Scout's Team' and actively participate in fixing some worldwide problems which feature in the books. By taking small but important steps, the books encourage children and parents to plant some seeds to feed the bees, pick up plastic, and upcycle household waste to turn it into rescue kits to help the animals.

### Competition Time -

We all know that litter looks unsightly, can harm our natural world and is totally avoidable.

That's why The3engineers teamed up with [Helping Hand Environmental](#) to encourage those who wouldn't normally go out and pick up litter to get involved.

### Each month they will be giving away two sets of litter pickers!!!

To enter, all you need to do is create a poster encouraging people to 'STOP DROPPING LITTER' and explain why it is so important to dispose of your waste appropriately.

Send a photo or digital file to [contact@the3engineers.com](mailto:contact@the3engineers.com)

[Find out more and take a look at the resources](#)

## Water Saving Week - Become a Water Superhero



This Water Saving Week the message is more urgent than ever before: we all need to be using less water. Sure, we tend to think of the UK as perpetually damp and soggy, but that's just not the case anymore.

Last spring was one of the driest ever recorded in the UK, and this April is on track to become the driest on record. Climate change is ushering in longer periods of dry weather and, combined with population growth and changes in lifestyle, has led to growing pressure being put on our water supplies.

The good news is that taking positive action now can help us make sure that there's enough water to go around, for our communities and for the environment.

Having won the Geography Association's Silver Award, [\*DRY: The Story of a Water Superhero\*](#), provides an ideal opportunity to engage young people to think about water use and enable positive behaviour change.

This curriculum-led creative competition offers an ideal opportunity for teachers to embed geography, science and PSHE into real-world learning, informed by evidence-based scientific research.

### **The Challenge: Get designing for change...**

What would your home, school, or garden look like if we were to use water more wisely? You can answer this in whatever way you prefer:

- Drawing, painting or computer graphic
- Model in any material you wish (submit entry as up to 3 clear photos of the same model) or a computer-generated model
- Video (less than 2 minutes)
- Writing (no more than 2 pages of A4)

**The deadline for submissions is May 28th, 2021.**

[Submit your entry](#)



## **Go Green- Fingered in May**

Children love growing plants, love being in the garden but they're often impatient, wanting to see instant results. National Children's Gardening Week aims to capture children's enthusiasm at a time when results are immediate. National Children's Gardening Week takes place annually in the 'warm' week at the end of May.

This means that pretty much throughout the UK they can plant all the popular plants with little fear of weather damage, or the need for complicated protective growing.

Being out in nature is important for our physical and mental well-being and that's why we want to encourage more schools to enjoy the outdoors. As part of Children's Gardening Week, why not get involved in the [Nurture For Nature](#) campaign.

Download your free gardening and wellness guide and discover how you can help both your health, and the health of your natural environment this Spring.

[Get involved in Gardening Week](#)

[Download your wellness guide](#)

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## Outdoor Classroom Day 2021



Normally at this time of the year we would be ramping up for our very own [PECT Eco Awards](#).

However, as with everything we are having to do things a little differently this year. Unfortunately, That does mean that we will not be able to run our usual fun packed day! But we don't want to miss out on celebrating your successes.

Therefore, for the first time ever, we will be having two events! This May to mark Outdoor Classroom Day, we are asking schools to let us know what they have been up to - how have you been changing your behaviours to become more sustainable? We want to know about your projects, how have you continued to support students in their eco work during the lockdowns? Maybe there is a student who has gone above and beyond and you would like to recognise them for all their hard work. Are you using your outdoor space more than ever before and have been busy enhancing it?

Whatever it is, we want you to tell us all about it so we can celebrate together - we will be creating a very special page on our website to share your stories and work. This will also be shared at our second event on 21st October, when hopefully we will be able to come together and celebrate in person at a very special Eco Awards day - more details to follow, but please add the date to your diaries now!

In the meantime, please send us details on what your school has been up to along with a picture to [education@pect.org.uk](mailto:education@pect.org.uk), so we can feature all your amazing work and award your certificates.

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30 Days Wild is an annual nature challenge where the Wildlife Trust asks you to do something wild every day in June.

Your daily **Random Acts of Wildness** can be anything you like - litter-picking, birdwatching, puddle-splashing, you name it! But to help you on your way, The Wildlife Trusts will also provide you with a **FREE postal or digital pack of goodies** to inspire your wild month - including an activity passport and a wallchart to track your progress.

2020 was a bumper year, with over half a million participants across the UK - that's a lot of people getting closer to nature! In fact, taking part in 30 Days Wild is scientifically proven to make you feel happier, healthier, and more connected to nature.

[Sign up to receive your pack](#)



## Net Zero Now - Enabling Community Action On Climate Change

To help support local communities reduce emissions, [Cambridge Carbon Footprint](#) with support from our [Zero Carbon Communities grant fund](#), is launching [Net Zero Now](#), a new scheme to help train and support community climate leaders across the district. The programme will provide free training in effective carbon reduction strategies for local communities.

The new project is designed to fast track our move to net zero emissions by building a local network to deliver carbon reduction activities, events and communications that engage people of all backgrounds. The programme will provide training in carbon reduction strategies, behaviour change and effective communication. Participants will develop practical organisational skills and get access to tools and resources to support carbon reduction activities.

**The deadline for applications is 9th May**

[Take part now](#)

# Local School Nature Grants

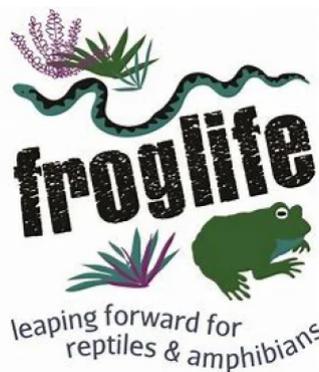
I am pleased to announce that the Learning Through Landscapes [Local Schools Nature Grants](#) are open for applications.



The grants provide an assortment of nature equipment up to the value of £500 and a two hour training session. The packages are customisable, enabling early years settings\*, Infant, Primary and Secondary schools to choose from a menu of items which best suit their learners and their setting. All schools in England are welcome to apply.

This year they are offering 625 grants and a wider mix of products and training to appeal to an even broader range of ages.

**Apply online today**



## All In The Leap Of A Frog!

Amphibians and reptiles are charismatic emblems of life on earth. They have the ability to inspire and engage audiences that are new to wildlife conservation, and they provide accessible examples of many key curriculum concepts for more formal learning.

Froglife want all audiences to appreciate and learn more about amphibians and reptiles, and how to conserve them. Their education team works closely with a range of education providers, to provide a wide range of engagement opportunities, lessons and resources to support schools in being able to offer unique learning opportunities.

**Take a look at how you can get involved**

## Sustrans Big Pedal Is Back!

The **Sustrans Big Pedal** is the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge.

Schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils, staff and parents making active journeys to



school. Taking place on the 19th - 30th April, it is free to enter, with daily prizes to be won.

This year's challenge focuses on going on an amazing journey! See your local area from a new perspective, learn about the benefits of active travel and discover amazing journeys to school from around the world.

**There are a range of free resources available:**

- Daily lesson plans suitable for the classroom and remote learning
- Daily physical activity challenges
- A school account on the Big Pedal website
- Resources to help schools communicate with families

**Register your school to take part**



## Food Smart - Update

We are always trying to expand the range of activities, resources and support we offer to schools.

During the Easter holidays we were proud to become a partner of the Holiday Activity and Food Program (HAF). We have created some brand new resources for families and students- all of which are available on the [Healthy Schools Cambridgeshire and Peterborough](#) website. We have now created some family cook-a-long videos with recipe cards to follow, so make sure you check them out. These will be followed up with more activities, resources and cook-a-longs in time for the summer holidays.

We always value your feedback, so if you have used any of our Food Smart resources and would like to offer any suggestions on how these could be improved or added to, please do get in touch. Or if you would like to discuss getting involved and gaining your accreditation, please get in touch at [education@pect.org.uk](mailto:education@pect.org.uk)

## New Food Hygiene Teaching Materials



E-Bug (operated by Public Health England) is a free educational resource for classrooms and makes learning about micro-organisms, the spread, prevention and treatment of infection, fun and accessible for all teachers and students.

All activities and lesson plans have been designed to complement the National Curriculum eg. RSHE, Science. The NEW materials are for

educators who teach young people (aged 11 – 18), and come with accompanying Educator Training sessions.

If you are taking part in Healthy Schools, or our own Food Smart Accreditation, these are a great way to enhance the work you are already doing.

[Find out about the resources](#)



## BNF Healthy Eating Week 2021 - still time to register

BNF Healthy Eating Week is taking place from 14th - 18th June 2021 and is the ideal way of supporting and promoting health.

The Week is open to all ages and schools throughout the UK. When you register you'll have access to an activity pack of support, and receive alerts and information to help your school engage with the Week.

[Click here to register](#)

## Free Veg Power Kit - apply now!

Time is running out for you to register and take advantage of this national campaign.

This FREE opportunity offers schools an exciting resource pack to go alongside the national campaign from the 7th - 11th June. With all sorts of goodies included and activities to get your students involved in healthy eating this is an opportunity not to be missed.

[Click here to register](#)

## Resources

We are constantly looking for new resources to help you with your eco work. Here are a few which we have picked out and thought would fit well with the events coming up over the next couple of months.



Demonstrate support for action on air pollution and speak out to show how much we care about clean air for our children.

**COUNTRYSIDE  
CLASSROOM**

Connecting schools with food, farming and the natural environment.



To help school students engage with STEM beyond the classroom, with a wealth of fun, science-based activities.



A global project which helps young people see that they are not alone in caring about environmental and social issues.



Campaigning for a cleaner, safer, fairer, more transparent and more accountable fashion and textiles industry.

**GREENPEACE**

solution!

Explore the challenges our planet faces and be inspired to take action to become part of the



Learning with balanced and informed insight into food production, farming and the environment.



Grow Social is back! Communities across the UK are sharing their love of plants, making new connections and helping to fight loneliness. Sign up for your free growing kit.

# Upcoming Events

## Dates for your Diary

**May** - National Walking Month

**May 3rd - 7th** - Childrens Book Week

**May 17th - 21st** - Walk To School Week

**May 17th - 21st** - Water Saving Week

**May 20th** - Outdoor Classroom Day

**May 20th** - World Bee Day

**May 23rd** - Children's Gardening Week

**May 28th** - Great British Spring Clean

**May 29th - June 6th** - Garden Wildlife Week

**May 31st - June 11th** - Farming Fortnight

**June 5th** - World Environment Day

**June 8th** - World Oceans Day

**June 14th - 18th** - BNF Healthy Eating Week

**June 17th** - Clean Air Day

**June 27th** - Open Farm Sunday

**June 28th - July 2nd** - Children's Art Week



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