



Date - Friday 10th October 2025

Present - Catherine Hunter, Becky Wood, HC (Lobsters), CD (Rays), BS (Starfish), LA (Jellyfish), AM (Turtles), RT (Whales), TB (Penguins), GM (Dolphins)

Apologies - CM (Octopus), AM (Seals), DW (Seahorses), OL (Fish),

Agenda:

1. Welcome to Fountains Primary Eco-Committee, roles and responsibilities of the Eco-Committee.
2. Volunteers for recycling and school recycling ambassadors.
3. Eco-Schools Accreditation.
4. Eco-Schools' November 'Cut Your Carbon' campaign.
5. Plastic bottle caps
6. Any other business

1. Welcome and Introduction to the Eco-Committee

All newly elected Eco-Committee representatives were warmly welcomed to the first meeting of the academic year. Each pupil was congratulated for being specially voted in by their class peers to represent their class and the school on environmental matters.

Members were given a brief overview of the role and purpose of the Eco-Committee. It was explained that the group works together to help make the school more environmentally friendly and sustainable. Committee members will take part in planning and leading green initiatives, monitoring progress, and encouraging positive changes across the school community.

The main focus areas for the year were introduced. These include recycling in school—improving systems and educating others on reducing waste; supporting the school's Climate Action Plan—helping to meet the school's environmental objectives; improving the school environment—maintaining and enhancing green spaces and promoting biodiversity; engaging with the local community—building connections and encouraging sustainable practices beyond the school gates; and raising awareness of sustainability—promoting responsible use of resources in all areas of school life.

Members were also informed of their responsibilities. These include attending regular meetings, sharing ideas from their class and reporting back to classmates, and helping with events, campaigns, and projects related to the key focus areas.

2. Volunteers for School Ambassadors for Recycling

The committee held a discussion on the importance of effective recycling in school, especially in light of the newly introduced 'Simpler Recycling' legislation. Members agreed that everyone has a role to play in making recycling successful and visible throughout the school.

Committee members were asked to volunteer as Recycling Ambassadors. Their responsibilities will include ensuring class paper recycling bins are regularly emptied and helping to organise and take part in weekly litter picks around the school grounds. Several pupils expressed interest in volunteering, and a rota will be created to ensure responsibilities are shared fairly across year groups.

3. Eco-Schools Accreditation

At the end of the previous term, the school was awarded the Eco-Schools Accreditation with the highest level of recognition—Distinction. This prestigious award celebrates the ongoing efforts of both students and staff in improving the school and wider environment.

The accreditation highlights a number of impactful projects carried out over the past year. These include the creation of the Hunter's Wood Reflection Garden, which provides a peaceful and natural space for the school community; planting initiatives to improve biodiversity; whole-school events such as World Water Day to raise environmental awareness; and local community litter picking, which has made a meaningful difference to both wildlife and the local environment.

Committee members were praised for their contributions and reminded that maintaining the Distinction level will require continued commitment, creativity, and teamwork throughout the year.

4. Eco-Schools 'Cut Your Carbon' Campaign

Members were introduced to the upcoming Eco-Schools 'Cut Your Carbon' campaign, which officially launches in November. This initiative aims to raise awareness among pupils, staff, and families about the environmental impact of our carbon footprints and what actions we can take to reduce them.

The committee discussed a six-point checklist that will be shared with pupils, staff, and their families, offering simple and achievable ideas for reducing carbon emissions at home. These small changes may include energy-saving habits, sustainable travel choices, and reducing waste.

To support engagement, the campaign will be launched via Reach More Parents, and a form will be sent out for families to report back on the actions they have achieved. Feedback and success stories will then be compiled and shared with Eco-Schools as part of the school's contribution to the national campaign.

5. Sustainability Initiatives: Bottle Top Collection and Bag2School

Members were reminded of ongoing sustainability efforts involving donations of plastic bottle tops, which will be sent off and exchanged for 'earth tokens.' These tokens can then be used to obtain furniture made directly from recycled bottle tops once enough are collected. The last collection totalled an impressive 11.7 kg of bottle tops, and members were encouraged to help make the next collection even bigger.

Additionally, on 26th November, the school will hold a Bag2School collection. Members were encouraged to search their homes for any unwanted clothes that might otherwise be donated to charity shops. Bag2School will pay the school 30p per kilogram of donated clothes. Donations should be placed in black bags, and a list of acceptable items is available from the school office.

6. Any Other Business - No further points were raised.

Action Points

1. Eco-Committee Members

- Attend regular meetings and actively represent their class on environmental initiatives.
- Share meeting updates and ideas with their classmates.

2. Recycling Ambassadors

- Volunteers to be confirmed and assigned to regularly empty class paper recycling bins.
- Organise and participate in weekly litter picks around the school.

3. Sustainability Campaigns

- Promote and participate in the **Eco-Schools 'Cut Your Carbon' Campaign** launching in November.
- Encourage families to complete the six-point checklist and submit feedback via Reach More Parents.

4. Bottle Top Collection

- Collect and bring in plastic bottle tops to help increase total weight beyond the last collection of 11.7 kg.

5. Bag2School Collection (26th November)

- Members to promote the collection and encourage families to donate unwanted clothes.
- Ensure donated items are placed in black bags and are on the acceptable items list.
- Liaise with the school office for details on acceptable items.

6. Next Meeting Preparation

- Chair and committee members to prepare topics and updates for the next meeting.
- Schedule and communicate the date and time of the next meeting to all members.

Next meeting: 14th November 2025