

Junior Warden Scheme 2016

At the end of last year the Earthkeepers were contacted by Dale and Valley homes about a new scheme of Junior Neighbourhood Wardens. The aim of the scheme was for the children to inspect the local area around the school and suggest where improvements could be made.

A small group of Earthkeepers from Y5/6 were chosen to be wardens. They were required to walk around the estate and identify things such as litter, untidy areas, uneven pathways and general improvements needed to the area. Hi-visibility vests were printed (with our school logo) and in December we met Laura, one of the Neighbourhood Officers, and set off with clipboards in hand!

Laura had a short route mapped out for us and the group soon noticed some areas where improvements could be made. We noticed an incredible amount of litter and noticed that there wasn't any litter bins in the area. Also the area to the front of the Goodall Centre, the grass area was being abused by dog walkers and no dog waste bin available. The group also noticed that there were numerous items of furniture and household waste in gardens.

The second group to inspect the area noticed that outside our school there was an amount of litter and we didn't have a litter bin available. The area to the front of the Farm Close, the grass area, is being abused by dog walkers and there isn't a dog waste bin available. The group also noticed an abandoned shopping trolley on Proudfoot Drive.

After arriving back at school, the children spent time with Laura discussing the various options about how the issues they had identified could be tackled. Laura asked the children if they would be prepared to carry out a litter picking session in the spring.

A couple of weeks later Laura sent an email identifying our areas of concern and also to inform us that they'd had many lovely phone calls asking which school the children were from and comments of how lovely it was that we were helping to take care of the surrounding community area.

It was a much warmer day when we went out to do our litter picking duties, Laura brought us all the equipment we needed and it was surprising to see

how much the children enjoyed finding and clearing the litter. We followed the same route and were really excited to see the changes we had implemented.

First, the areas which had a problem with dog waste now had dog waste bins and the difference was noticeable - there was hardly any dog waste. There was a new litter bin in one of our identified area however; Laura informed us that she is still planning to try to get a bin near the school. The shopping trolley and the household items in the gardens had also been removed.

Laura has thanked all the children who took part and commented that they were a credit to our school. It was amazing for the groups to see the difference they had made to the community and the environment.