

# Earthkeepers 2014

Our first year for the newly formed Earthkeepers (our environmental team) has been a busy one.

## Switch Off Fortnight

Our first campaign was 'Switch Off Fortnight'. After a meeting with Gemma Tate from OASES where we discussed how we (as a whole school) could target our school to reduce its carbon omissions by reducing the amount of energy we use and in turn save money. Alongside Gemma, the Earth Keepers presented an assembly and pointed out the kind of things that we could do to reduce our energy waste. Gemma visited us again after the campaign and advised us that although there had not been a significant reduction in costs over the fortnight that our bills were starting to show a reduction on the same time the previous year. In our action plan we have stated that we are pleased that costs are reducing. However, there are still improvements to be made. Also we needed to be aware that, as the winter was mild this year, this may have contributed to the savings shown.

## Christmas Cards



*Introducing our Christmas Card campaign in assembly*

Our following campaign was more successful. The group looked at waste within the school and, although we have a good record for recycling, it was mentioned that at Christmas time a lot of paper was wasted. The concept was that we could reduce the amount of paper wasted by sending individual cards to each other. In a whole school assembly the Earth Keepers asked the children that, instead of bringing Christmas cards into school for everyone in their class, we could make one card each within class. Each child would then receive a handmade card, to take home, from the whole class for a donation of 50p (from the money they had saved, by not buying cards for everyone in their class.) We would then, as a school, send the money to CAFOD to help less fortunate children.

With the money we raised from this campaign we decided to buy a [World Gift](#). The whole school raised £110 altogether and we chose to help people who are less fortunate than us, by buying a 'Marvellous Moo Cow' and a 'Vegetable plot'.

## Waste Week

Our third and final campaign of the year was in the spring term. We took part in the POD's Waste Week. The objective of this campaign was to bring the pupils attention to the amount of waste we produce as a country and, more importantly, as a school. Our assembly hi-lighted the problems of landfill and showed the impact of rubbish throughout the world. This campaign was very successful and the impact of all the recycling that we do is school is that our waste removal costs for the whole school have been considerably reduced. Another positive is that Taylor Shaw have now brought in new measures that ensure that packaging waste in the kitchen has been reduced and we now have recycling bins in the kitchen.

## Litter Picking



*The litter we collected*

At the end of the year we took part in a litter picking afternoon, which we were asked to take part in by McDonalds. All of year 6 dressed in bright safety vests and we were given gloves and grabbers. We started in the school grounds and made our way through the estate to McDonalds collecting litter along the way. The children were shocked by the amount of litter we collected. The highlight of the afternoon was a treat of a McDonalds when we finally arrived.