

# Courageous Advocacy Newsletter

## Spring 2025

Across the school, from EYFS to Year 6, the children have been working hard to fulfil their pledges as Courageous Advocates. Below you can see the wonderful work the children have been involved in, in order to make a difference, no matter how big or small, to the world and people around them.

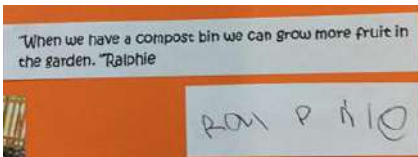
### EYFS Courageous Advocacy

In Early Years we have been learning a lot about where food comes from and how it is made or grown. We discussed what sorts of fruit and vegetables we have in school for snack. In both FS1 and FS2 we realised that we have a lot of food waste after our snack and we talked about what we could do about it. We were worried that the bins might overflow and that the rubbish dump will become too big! In Early Years we investigated this problem, and we thought that we could have a special bin in both classrooms for our fruit peelings and left over fruit at snack time. We would then be able to use these leftovers to make compost, which we can use to help our flowers grow. We also thought that maybe we might be able to grow our own fruit too!

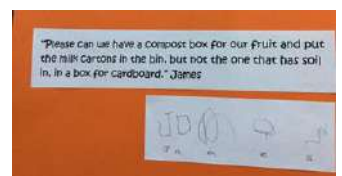
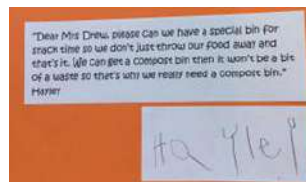
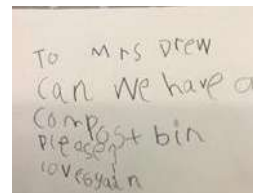
FS2 explored making some bins to collect the fruit peelings and leftover fruit and vegetables, sharing their ideas with each other. FS1 decided to use a bowl to collect their fruit and vegetable peelings and waste. However, both classes soon realised that we needed some proper food waste containers for the classrooms and more compost bins for the allotment.



Therefore, we decided to ask Mrs Drew if she would buy some new compost boxes for the food waste. We thought very carefully about how to ask Mrs Drew if she would help us. We agreed that FS1 and FS2 would write a letter to her.



FS1 talked about our ideas and then wrote our name. FS2 wrote our own letters and labelled the envelope. We then excitedly took our letters to Mrs Drew.



FS1 and FS2 both took our letters to Mrs Drew. She was really interested in how much we had thought about making sure that we recycle our food waste in Early Years. Mrs Drew was also very impressed with our writing! After a big chat with both FS1 and FS2, Mrs Drew promised that she would buy some compost bins for the classrooms and wanted us to choose some with our teachers.

Thank you Mrs Drew for helping Early Years and we will look forward to using our new food waste boxes and taking it to the allotment to make compost. We will let you know how we are getting on....



## Year 1

In Year One, we have been learning all about the impact of HS2 on our local environment.

We looked at some photos of areas surrounding our school before the HS2 building work and then some photos of what it looks like now. We were very shocked to see the difference.

The children were then very worried about what had happened to the animals that lived in these areas so we researched the impact the building work was having on local animals and their habitats.

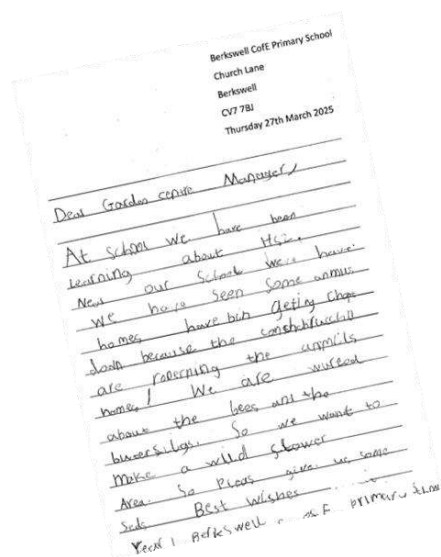
We discovered that there had been a big impact on a number of different types of animals including mammals such as hedgehogs and bats, birds and insects. We were pleased to see that the HS2 company had plans to help these animals but we saw that most of these plans would be created once the building work was completed, but in the meantime habitats had been destroyed and animals were struggling.

Year One were not happy about this and decided to try and do something about it. They have come up with lots of plans for things we can do in the summer term to help the animals.

To start with we are planning on creating a wildflower area in our playground. This will help the insects, birds and bats as it will provide food for them all.

Year 1 have written letters to a local garden centre to ask for seeds and they have written letters to Mrs Brown (our eco-governor) to ask her to help with the planting.

We are looking forward to planting our seeds in the summer term and then watching the flowers grow!



## Year 2

In Year 2, we have been learning about how plastic is polluting our oceans.



We started to look at how much plastic we were using at home. This then made us notice that lots of the snacks that we brought into school from home had plastic packaging and that the plastic packaging was simply being thrown away.



We were curious to find out just how much plastic was being thrown away in school across one week. Year 2, therefore, asked each class from Years 1 to 6 to collect any plastic from their snacks for one week and we then counted it all up. We were shocked to learn that a total of 354 pieces of plastic packaging was collected!



Rather than throwing the plastic away, Year 2 thought that we could do more to encourage everyone to recycle. We each wrote a letter to Mrs Drew, asking for some yellow recycling bins to be put outside in the playground.

This week, we were so excited when Mrs Drew presented two new recycling bins to Year 2!

In addition to recycling more, Year 2 would like to encourage children and staff to bring snacks and packed lunch items that either are not in plastic packaging at all or that are in reusable plastic containers.

We thank you for helping us take steps to become a plastic-free school (so far as possible) and for helping us save our world.



## Year 3

In Year 3, we have been learning about being courageous advocates, which means standing up for what is right and helping others, even when it's hard.

During the Spring term, Year 3 have been working on the topic of 'Amazing Africa'. Throughout our topic work, we have been learning about life in Africa. We looked at the difficulties people face across the continent and the reasons why. We have found out about the lives of some different people living in Africa.

With all this in mind, as a class, we have chosen to help children in Africa who don't always have the same things we do, like clean water, food, schools, and doctors. We think every child should have what they need to grow up healthy and happy.

That's why we would like our school community to work together to raise money to sponsor a child in Africa. Sponsoring a child means we can help give them things like an education, food, clean water, and a safe place to live. It's a way for us to show love and kindness, even to people far away.

We are planning some fun ways to raise money, so please watch out for school newsletters from Year 3 during the Summer Term. We hope lots of people will support us in this mission. Remember even small acts of kindness can help change the world.



#### **Year 4**

Year 4 have been identifying ways to Save Energy which is linked to the Year 4 Science topic on Electricity. After learning how electricity is made, we researched the advantages and disadvantages of renewable and non-renewable energy. In discovering how much pollution is caused by burning fossil fuels and the pollution caused by manufacturing and maintaining wind turbines and solar panels, Year 4 were determined to do something about it.

As Courageous Advocates, we first monitored how much electricity was being used at home. When we put this data into a graph, we discovered that some appliances, like the fridge, needed to be on 24 hours but others, like the TV didn't need to be on standby all day and night! In order to make changes, we drew up a plan to reduce the amount of electricity being used at home. A family meeting was held, and every child shared their plans to change routines. Feedback from parents conveyed that lights were being turned off and alternative entertainment were sought instead of playing games on an iPad. Year 4 have succeeded in making a difference.

Our next target is to spread the word around school in order to reduce electricity. Mr Millward , Chair of Governors and Mrs Brown, Sustainability Governor came to share the school's patterns of energy consumptions. With our Courageous Advocate hats on, we plan to monitor energy uses in school and promote a change to reduce bills and lower pollution in order to make our world a better place to live.

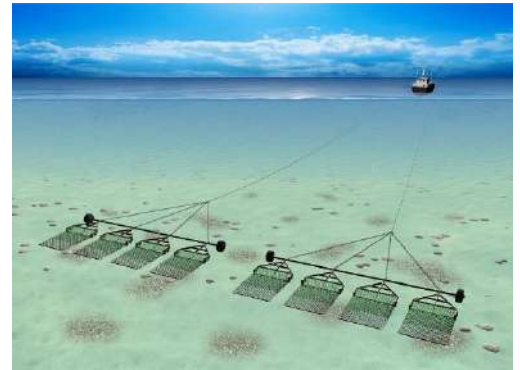




### Year 5

Year 5 students have been actively advocating for the environment this term, focusing on the impact of human activity and ways we can protect our planet for future generations.

We've learned how fishing and dredging damage delicate ocean ecosystems and harm marine life. Students have been inspired to think about how we can all play a role in protecting these habitats. The class has explored the effects of climate change, especially the threat of rising sea levels to coastal areas. Through research, students now understand how these changes impact both the environment and communities worldwide.



We investigated the role of synthetic fertilizers in climate change, particularly how they release harmful greenhouse gases. The students also learned that certain crops can absorb carbon dioxide, which led to an exciting decision: next term, we will begin planting crops to contribute to reducing climate change.

Next term, we will continue our environmental work by planting crops that help capture carbon and reduce the need for harmful pesticides. This hands-on project will teach the students about sustainable farming and inspire them to take action for the planet.

## How You Can Get Involved 🌱

We invite you to support these efforts by discussing these important issues at home or helping us gather resources for our planting project. Every small action counts, and together we can make a positive impact on our planet's future. Thank you for your continued support and please let us know if you can be of help to our project.

## Year 6

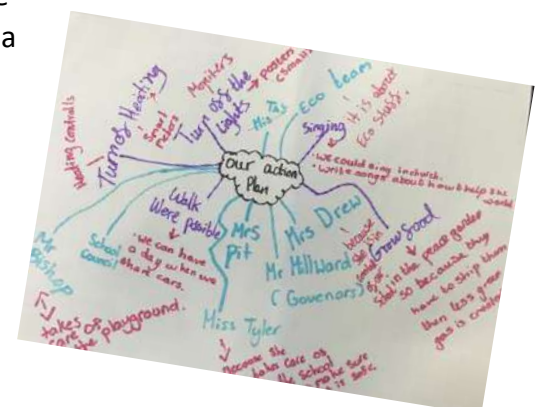
Earlier in the year, Year 6 learnt all about Antarctica and some of the explorers who have ventured to this incredible continent.

As a result of what they'd learned, this term they decided to focus on the impact global warming is having on rising sea levels and the reduction of the ice caps.



To begin with, they researched causes of global warming and how their own lifestyle might be contributing to this. Then, in small groups, they brainstormed how we could take small actions as a school and as a community that would have a positive impact on our carbon footprint.

These ideas then formed our class action plan which was taken to both Mrs Drew and the Eco team for discussion.



Year 6 decided they wanted to focus on reducing the number of cars on the road at school drop off and pick up times thus reducing the greenhouse gasses emitted into the atmosphere. As part of their 'green dream' they also wanted to encourage people to park further away and walk down to school. The idea for a 'Car Share Day' was born!

Each year group was surveyed in order to provide valuable data on the impact of car share day. The event was discussed in worship and posters were created to advertise the importance of taking part.

If you travelled by car, how many spare seats did you have in your car?		
None	9	(5%)
1	33	(17%)
2	72	(38%)
3	42	(22%)
4 or more	11	(6%)

Year 6 were very pleased to see that many children and parents across the school had done their best to support them. Even the staff got on board and shared cars where possible!



The data collected showed there had been a reduction of 8% for those children who had 2 or more spare seats in their car on the way to school. There was also a huge increase in the number of children who had no spare seats – from 5% to 12%. What a fantastic result!

One parent even commented, *'This car share idea was a great one... maybe we should make it a one day a month or a once a half term thing, just to get the habit going. It was so easy to do and made me realise that we should be doing this more often...'*

Year 6 have worked extremely hard to show that we are all capable of making small changes to our routines that could, over time, make a big difference. Thank you to everyone who supported them.

As you can see, our work as Courageous Advocates is well underway and already having a very positive impact – albeit small. However, it shows that if we all play our part – no matter how small – a difference can be made!

When asked: 'How does being a Courageous Advocate make you feel?', one child responded, *"It makes me feel proud and I like doing it because you get to stand up for others."* This was echoed across the school.