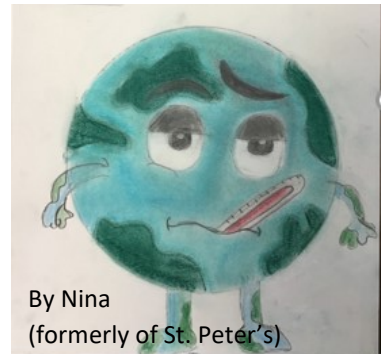


The Green Samaritan

The title of our newsletter links with the Christian ethos of our academy and represents the values set out in the Good Samaritan parable told by Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. The Green element represents us as stewards of our environment and our wish to care for our wonderful planet.



Our World, in Our Hands

Issue Number 6, 'Earth Day at SMCCAT'

3rd May 2022

Thank you to all our Earth Day supporters who so kindly gave up their time to join our Trust-wide Earth Day celebration on the 31st March. Their diverse range of expertise, knowledge and practical support helped to increase our children's awareness of the climate and ecological crisis that day to day can, so often, go unnoticed.

Our children's feedback shows that our speakers have left a powerful legacy. For example, **Mimi** from **St. George's, York** said, in response to a visit from Dr Bryce Stewart, *"I loved the visit so much that I now want to be a marine biologist when I grow up."*

and, *'it made me think about following a career in climate change or being an engineer to build solar farms'*, the reaction of **Eva** in **Year 8** at **SFX** following Peter Kavanagh's clean energy Earth Day presentation.

And, *'Bruno was excellent, I learnt so much about bees. I'm going to get a book from the Library and read all about them.'* - the words of **Freya** in **Year 4** at **St. Ben's** following Bruno's inspiring session on the importance of bees and other insects.

Perhaps the climate and ecological crisis is best summed up by **Luca** from **St. Augustine's** who, inspired by Alex's visit, simply wrote in her letter to the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP,

'Together we can stop this!'

I hope you enjoy reading this special Earth Day edition of the Green Samaritan newsletter and feel so encouraged that our children are, as Pope Francis asks of all of us, continuing to 'stand up and speak out' for the environment.
Margaret Land, Sustainability Officer, SMCCAT



By **Izzy S**, Student Editor,
Year 7, **St. Augustine's**



On the 31st March, our schools took part in the second St.

Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust Earth Day. As you can see from this edition, all of our schools were lucky enough to welcome a host of inspiring visitors to each of our schools. My School, St Augustine's wrote letters to the RT Hon Zahawi MP stating that together we can make a difference, hoping the government will listen to the voice of children. We were also visited by **Alex** who I had met previously during the COP26 conference. Alex discussed the progress being made with **Ashden's national schools campaign** - **'LetsGoZero'** and answered many questions from other students in assemblies. I was also part of a small group of children from the coastal schools to represent the Trust on our local radio station. **The more noise we make about the things we need to do the more impact we will have for our future.**

Meeting the **'Seal People'**, making Earth Day pledges, planting trees and making bird feeders - all in a day's work for the children at **St. George's, Scarborough**

'It was a fantastic day. We had a man come in to talk to us about seals. He said we should not disturb them because they can bite us and if they get really frightened they try to rush back into the sea and they can cut themselves on the sharp rocks.' - **Dylan, Year 4**



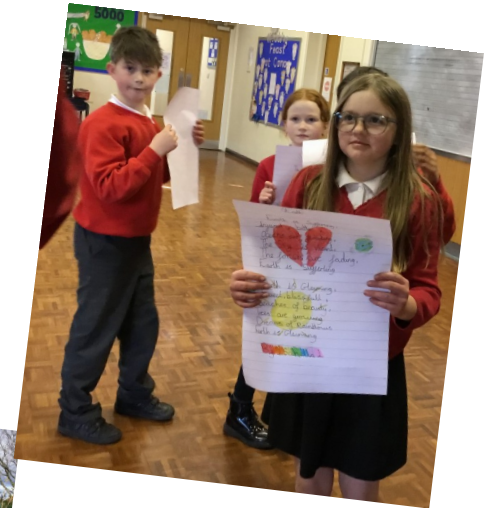
'In our assembly we were told we should not leave litter on the beach because it goes into the sea and the seals will eat it. I loved the planting too. I planted cucumbers and pumpkins.' - **Skylar, Year 3**



Making and sharing our Earth Day pledges



Making feeders to help the birds this Spring



'I thought that Earth day was fun. The best part was planting trees outside with Miss Welburn. I had a really fun day.' - Freya, Year 5



'I loved Earth day. I planted four trees and wrote a poem about the earth.'

- Isabella, Year 5

'We did lots of planting. I also liked drawing the endangered animals. I drew a red panda' - Szczepan Year 2



Dr Bryce Stewart, a marine biologist from York University, was welcomed by the children at **St. Wilfrid's school, York** to celebrate Earth Day

And inspired by Dr Bryce, the children wrote letters to their MP, Rachel Maskell -

'I want to write to you about stopping the use of plastic bags in York. Plastic bags are hurting sea creatures. Lots of animals are hurt because they are eating plastic bags.....if you like sea creatures, use paper bags. I think we should get some litter pickers in York, can you help us?

Issie, Class 2



'Plastic in our oceans is dangerous to a wide range of sea life animals [they] get confused and eat plastic because they think it is food. I think we should have more recycling bins in York. Can you help us? We want to help our environment'

Emily, Class 2

'Most of the plastic in the World ends up in the ground or dumped into the sea'

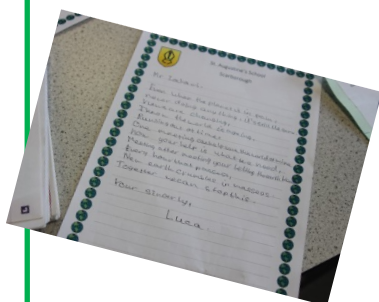
Flora, Class 2



Inspired by **Alex**, from Ashden, the students at **St. Augustine's, Scarborough** wrote letters to the Secretary of State for Education, the **Rt Hon. Nadhim Zahawi MP**, to ask him to do more to care for the environment.



'Polar Bears need saving before they become extinct, climate change is melting the ice, polar bears are drowning.' - **Bonnie**



'Even when the planet is in pain, never doing anything, it's still the same. Views are changing, I know the World is ageing, running out of time. One meeting can help save this World of mine, now your help is what we need, meeting after meeting you let the Earth bleed, every hour that passes..... Together we can stop this!' - **Luca**



George and Oscar



Chahed, Abana, Jiya and Ava



Thank you Alex for your joining us on Earth Day



And here's Alex delivering the letters from the students at St. Augustine's to the Secretary of State for Education



So pleased to hear all about the students letters was ex-student of **St. Augustine's - Siobhan Baillie MP**, who was delighted that students from her former school are supporting Ashden's national schools campaign - **'LetsGoZero'**



A special visit from **Bruno**, the Beekeeper (from the York and District Beekeepers Association) to **St. Benedict's at Ampleforth**

'Bruno was excellent, I learnt so much about bees. I'm going to get a book from the Library and read all about them.' - **Freya, Year 4**



'I really enjoyed today. It was great to see everything Bruno brought in. I didn't know there was so much to know about bees!' - **Oscar, Class 2**

'Today I learnt how important bees are to our environment. We can't lose the bees and we should do everything we can to protect them. They are such fascinating and important creatures.' - **Anna, Class 4**

The children at **St Mary's and St. Joe's** at **Pocklington** and **St. Mary's** at **Market Weighton** enjoyed a busy Earth Day with the amazing **Roger Parkinson** (from the Woodland Trust)



'Roger was really nice and good at helping us plant the trees'

- **Stevie F**

'He (Roger) was really fun and helped me dig holes to plant trees in our field.'

- **George C**

Roger helped the children to create a willow tunnel and a hedgerow to screen an open fence at Market Weighton. Approx. 450 trees were planted by the children - well done everyone!

(All the tree stock was provided by the Roger's Voluntary Group in Wakefield which was kindly funded by Northern Power Grid to help replace the trees that they have had to cut down.)

'Earth Day was a fun day and I think we should plant more trees soon' - **Edwards P**

'Planting the trees was fun I hope they grow really tall' - **Florentine B**



'I liked Earth Day because planting the trees was fun, it helps the world' - **Myla L**

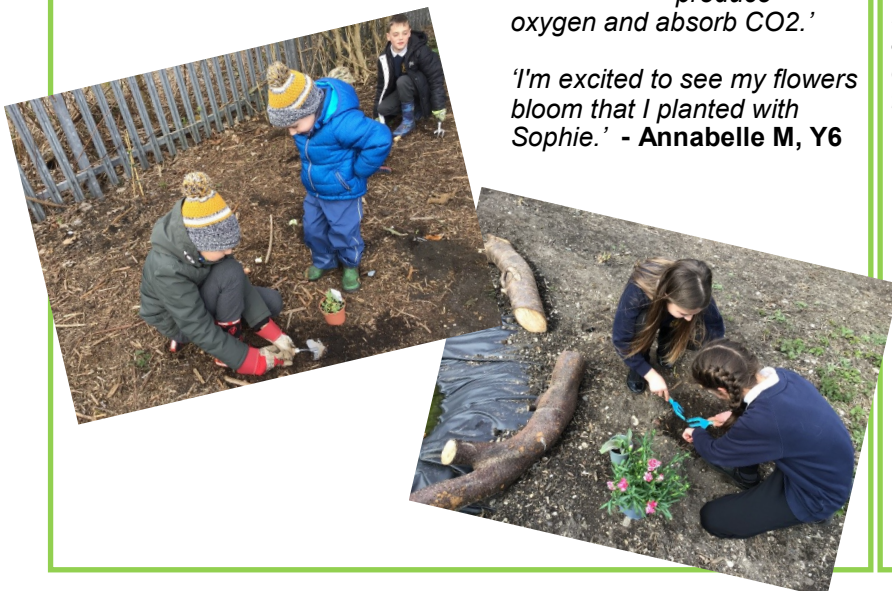
Sophie, a Marine Biologist from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust shared her passion for the seas with the children at **OLSP**



'I loved learning about how oysters clean the water really quickly.'

'It was interesting to learn how important sea grass is to produce oxygen and absorb CO2.'

'I'm excited to see my flowers bloom that I planted with Sophie.' - **Annabelle M, Y6**



A special visit for the children at the **Sacred Heart School, Northallerton** by **Jan Selby**, a Professor of Politics and International Relations at Sheffield University.



The children enjoyed some 'woolly' thinking, exploring the connections between various environmental and social issues and then learning about the politics of these issues.

"We had a great session with Jan, especially the active part. Joining up different issues with wool to see how the world connects together was like making a huge spiders web. People almost got trapped in it."

It showed how so many things that affect our lives and our world are connected but how those connections mean lots of things get messy and tangled"





'I liked the video of the hedgehogs eating'
- **Bethany**

'I learnt that you shouldn't leave rubbish because hedgehogs can get stuck in it' - **Amelie**

'I enjoyed making a poster to teach people how to keep their gardens hedgehog safe and friendly' - **Artie**

'I enjoyed setting up the hedgehog tunnel'
- **Scarlett**

'I loved learning about hedgehogs with Gordon. Their snuffling was funny' - **Grace**

'My favourite part was putting my bird seeds on the trees' - **Jovi**



The children at **St. Peter's**, Scarborough welcomed **Steve Crawford** a local surfer, and passionate environmentalist who is inspiring the people of Scarborough to clean up the coastline and stop pollution

'We had a fantastic day and learnt all about how we can help the planet. Steve, an ambassador for Surfers Against Sewage, talked to the school all about what he does to help save the planet. We talked about all the little things that make a big difference, like picking up litter, turning off lights and planting trees.'

- **Grace, Year 6**

'I had a brilliant day for Earth Day. Steve came into school to tell us all about the project - Surfers Against Sewage. He talked to the school about how to help keep the ocean clean and free from pollution. He had two very cool surfboards!' - **Aydin, Year 6**



And a visit from **Bex**, a Master's student studying International Relations and Climate Change to her former school - **OLQM, York**



"It was fun learning about what Bex does at her university. It was also really interesting to see the graphs to see the change over the years and quite shocked to see how the climate change graph just shot up in the last twenty years."

- **Alex F, Year 4**



"It made me think about what we can do as individuals to help protect our planet."
- **Oscar**

"I thought Bex's talk was inspirational and made me think about wasting less resources, such as fast fashion." - **Millie**

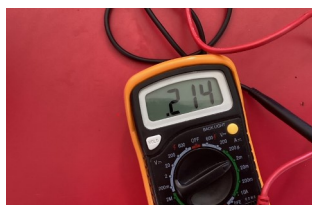
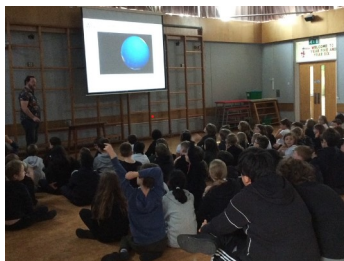


The children at **St. George's** in York welcomed two special visitors - **Dr Bryce Stewart** and **Dr Annie Hodgson**



"I loved the visit so much that I now want to be a marine biologist when I grow up" - Mimi, Year 5

"Dr Bryce was so inspiring. I really want to do something like he does when I'm older" Harry, Year 5

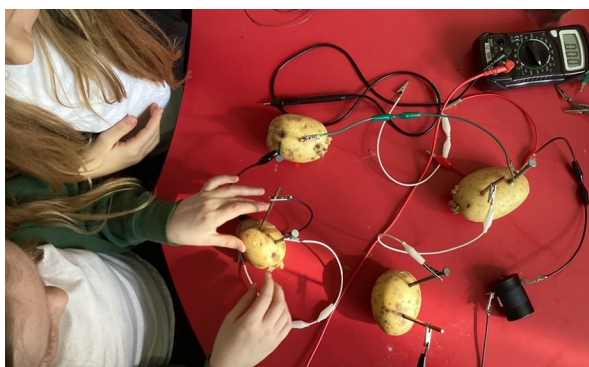


'I loved it when Annie came in. I love science anyway and I never knew that you could get electricity from a potato. I'd like to discover things like this too when I'm a scientist.' - Matilda, Year 3



'It was so cool. The best thing ever was powering a calculator using a potato' – Kieran, Year 3

'It was brilliant when Annie came in. It was really good to use all of the wires and the equipment that she brought.' – Emily, Year 3



Enjoying even more eco action on Earth Day.....

EARTH DAY 2022: Year One made a fairy garden with little fairy doors, and lovely clay Boggarts on the trees. We also added a pond with frog spawn and built a hedgehog house. The children made bee bombs and scattered the area with their seed balls. We finished off with a fire and marshmallows.



Mimi and Harry scattering bee bombs all round the perimeter of the field. The children (with their mascot) are looking forward to seeing the wild flowers grow and hopefully attracting lots of bees and insects



Earth Day at **SFX** was enjoyed with **Peter Kavanagh**, CEO of Harmony Energy

Peter shared his expertise of clean energy and gave the students an insight into the many different types of green careers.

'The way he explained it made me understand it more' – **Ben H, Year 7**

'I learnt how the battery sites worked' – **Bleddyn, Year 9**

'It inspired me to choose a career path on climate change' – **Ella May C, Year 8**



Peter also visited **St. Mary's, Richmond** where the children asked him some very tough questions including how rockets could be powered into space using clean energy!



'It taught me more about the storage of renewable energy' - **Amelie, Year 8**

'I thought it was inspiring to see that he thought about making it (the proposed solar farm) biodiverse'
Jake G

'It made me think about following a career in climate change or being an engineer to build solar farms'
Eva, Year 8

'Earth Day is important because it reminds us of our home and how we should protect it. If we lose our home due to deforestation, litter and [increasing] carbon emissions we will have nowhere to live.'

'Animals are losing their homes because of us.'

'Earth Day is important because without our planet we will die.'



'We can save water, recycle, go on walks instead of driving, don't waste food, litter pick, put rubbish in the bin.'

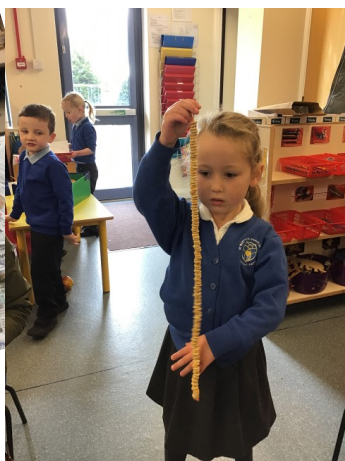
'In 2019, an area of forest the size of a football field was cut down every minute.'



.....And more Earth Day learning and practical action was enjoyed by the children at **St. Mary's, Richmond**

'Did you know that by 2030 the Government wants all cars to be electric?'

'Did you know that there are a billion tonnes of plastic on the Earth?'



Making bird feeders and hanging them up in our garden area.

The children at **St. Mary's, Malton** learning all about clean energy with **Renata** from **Octopus Energy**

First we worked in teams to build our solar and wind powered cars.



And now to see if they work.....



The children at **St. Joseph's** in **Pickering** spent Earth Day inspired by local resident **Mike Potter** who has over many years led the successful natural flood defence scheme project for the town.

'That was good, I liked looking at the tubes and pipes that the water went through.' - **Lexi, Class 3**

'I was interested to learn about how we can create dams that are okay for nature and help the animals as well as us.' - **Kai, Class 3**

'I know just what a ton of water looks like now. I was fascinated hearing all the stories about the floods in Pickering and how people are trying to prevent that now.' - **Toby, Class 4**

The children at **St. John's, Beverley** welcomed **Dom** from Nestle.

'It's better to encourage children to use recycled products so that when we're older we can make better choices that don't ruin the earth. Getting information about the environments helps us to make better decisions.' **Molly, Year 5**

'We learned that palm oil is bad for the environment, I didn't know that before Dom's visit. We should stop using it or reduce the amount we use. Methane, which is produced by cows, is not good for the environment. It's our job to make gods world the better place for everyone.' - **Evelyn, Y4**



'We all live on the planet - we need to make sure that it's good for the people who will live here in the future . We need to make sure that they have the best lives they can.' - **Nathan, Year 6**



Since Earth Day, Nestle has displayed some of our children's drawings and some information about them on several of their digital screens around their York Office. Dom has said that there are hundreds of people seeing our children's drawings each day including this one at the main reception as you walk into their building.



Litter picking and growing vegetables - lots of fabulous eco action too!



In addition to our visiting Earth Day speakers, we were so kindly supported by:



Cel Spellman, TV Actor, presenter, DJ and WWF ambassador who shared an inspiring Earth Day video. His warmth and passion for the environment was loved by our children.

Cel is joining us again virtually on Tuesday 3rd May to participate in a live interview for this newsletter - thank you Cel.



Professor Peter Wadhams who delivered a fabulous live virtual session about his career as a world leading climate scientist. His expertise and his journey to becoming a world leader on polar ice caps (including living on a submarine!) was inspiring.

Thank you also to **Mike Sparrow**, the leader of the Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership group who together with **Jane Luxton**, from our Central Team, set up and facilitated this wonderful session for us.



Mike Green, for his words of encouragement from the heart of Government.

Our children were given an insight into the work that is taking place in the Government's new Schools' Sustainability team at the Department for Education - thank you Mike (and **Nick Hall**) for supporting us!



And a special thanks to **Ines** from **OLQM**, for creating an Earth Day climate quiz. We hope you all got the answers right!



Please be aware that all our special Earth Day video clips, quizzes and puzzles are still available for your use in the Earth Day 2022 shared drive



Thank you also to Kate Humble for your kind words of encouragement. We know you are very busy and appreciate your support for us.

'I just want to add my thanks to all of you - the children and young people in our schools who made this such an exciting day. I can see from your great articles and photos that you loved our Earth Day celebrations but the people who came in to help us celebrate were inspired by you too! What an amazing event - I'm so proud of everyone who was involved and this just shows that if you are truly passionate about something, you'll always find people to help you achieve your dreams.'

Amy Rice, CEO

