

# Green Day at Chaddlewood Primary School

## Introduction:

Green Day is a CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) initiative that inspires schools to learn about climate change and how it relates to the buildings and spaces around them.

The Green Day activities at Chaddlewood Primary School were led by Kayti Selbie, one of two Year 4 teachers. Kayti also coordinates Personal, Social and Health Education and Art across the school. Green Day activities at Chaddlewood were held in 'Out and About' Week.

The school became involved in Green Day after receiving an email from CABE. Kayti Selbie's partner Year 4 teacher attended the Green Day half Day training in Plymouth which was held in April 2010 delivered by The Architecture Centre, Bristol supported by the Architecture Centre Devon and Cornwall.

Before the week commenced, Chaddlewood held a large assembly on bio-diversity and the environment. Pupils at Chaddlewood know about Eco-Schools, an award programme that guides schools on their sustainable journey, providing a framework to help embed these principles into the heart of school life. The school are working towards gaining a Green Flag award, which symbolises excellence in the field of environmental activity.

One of the key things Chaddlewood did during the week was set up an Eco Team which was open to all pupils. There are now sixteen pupils in the Eco Team from year 3 through to year 6. The Eco Team meets regularly and also reports back to pupils and teachers at school assemblies. Pupils also looked at ways to conserve energy and possible energy loss within their school buildings.



The poster features a blue background with a cluster of colorful hexagons (orange, green, black) forming a map of the United Kingdom. A stylized building is integrated into the map. The text 'Fun times. Serious lessons.' is at the top left, and 'Green Day' is in large green letters in the center. Below it, there is a small text box with the event's purpose and a date range. At the bottom right, there is a starburst graphic that says 'FREE Over 100 lesson ideas'.

**Fun times.  
Serious lessons.**

**Green Day**

Green Day is an event that helps you make your school sustainable.

It's a fun way to learn serious lessons about the connections between climate change and the places where we live and learn.

**4 June – 2 July 2010**  
[www.cabe.org.uk/greenday](http://www.cabe.org.uk/greenday)

**FREE**  
Over 100  
lesson  
ideas

**CABE**  
The government's centre  
for architecture and  
the built environment

**Key stage:**  
2

**Length of project:**  
The activities were initially over a week. Chaddlewood also allotted extra time later in the term to finish one of the main activities from the week, the Bug Hotel.

**Curriculum and whole school areas:**  
Maths  
Science  
Citizenship  
English  
Art and Design  
PHSE

During the week the activities were rotated and the classes were divided into smaller mixed year and class groups. The activity week was mainly for Years 3 and 4.



### Drama - Persephone

Using the story of the Greek myth Persephone, pupils investigated the theme of looking after the environment and the seasons

### Bug Hotels

Exploring and researching different bug hotels, pupils then designed their own. Their designs were entered into a competition to decide which two would be built in the school grounds by the two year groups.

### Outdoor Maths – Making Trails

Using maths and coordinate skills pupils made their own maps / trails for someone else to explore their school environment. They learnt about plans and pupils drew a birds eye views what they would see in a certain areas of their schoolgrounds.

Other activities from the week include sketching using viewfinders and pupils worked with a trained Forest School teacher in the wild area of their school grounds.

### Overview of activities:

Teachers worked closely together using the Green Day resources (booklet and website) as a starting point. The activities were built on the specialism of the teachers involved then tailored to the pupils, as well as from ideas brainstormed within the team.

### Audit

The pupils went outside and did a survey of their grounds. Investigating why things might change over time and what it might be able to tell us about the world.

### Making a Creature

Using clay as a base, pupils made imaginary creatures collected from natural materials found in their school grounds. In small groups they took it in turns to tell a story about their creature.

### Outdoor Maths – Maths Trail

Pupils collected different objects around the school environment to answer clues.



### Students developed new skills in:

- Investigating their school and its grounds
- How to be more environmentally aware
- How to conserve energy in their school building
- How various components of our ecosystem are changing
- Habitats and how humans effect them

### What worked well? What could be done differently?

An important outcome from the week was that pupils were able to see and understand the connection between all the things that they were doing. The end of year feedback also highlighted that pupils enjoyed being and learning outside of their normal classroom environment and they also enjoyed working with different year and class groups. Individually, they all enjoyed different things from the week itself.



Finally, undaunted by the size of their final pieces, the idea of doing something big for the Bug Hotel really captured their imaginations.

The weather during the week was not very good, but teachers advised pupils and parents that they were going to be outside all week, so they had to be prepared. Pupils worked outdoors regardless of the weather and there was only one afternoon when alternative plans had to be made. Working in their classrooms, pupils made up songs, using information that they had learnt. When working outdoors, it is useful to have something planned in case the weather does turn bad.

One of the things that teachers would do differently is to have a clearer idea of what materials would be needed for the Bug Hotel. Parents were asked to help, but teachers subsequently found out that organisations like B&Q do waste donation schemes. It is worthwhile researching similar local organisations to find out if they can help with materials for Green Day activities.





### **Additional Comments:**

Chaddlewood used Green Day alongside other initiatives such as EDF's Green Britain Day / Team Green Britain, BBC Breathing Spaces and Kew Garden Great Plant Hunt Project. All of these resources helped with the planning of activities during the week. The feedback made was that this was probably a more realistic way of working on green issues within schools. A possible implication is that schools might allocate one week a year to collapse their curriculum, and this would usually be in the Summer Term.

Better coordination of the various programmes around sustainability and environmental learning, how they relate to each other, how they are signposted would help teachers develop their teaching programmes more effectively.

### **Comments from teachers/students::**

"Most of us are pretty environmentally aware these days. In terms of personal learning, I think it is just how we can bring it alive for the pupils".

"It flags it up in their minds that these are times when we are thinking about the environment and how we can cut down on energy".

"I would recommend doing a Green Day to other schools...it is a great way to get kids involved..."

"At the moment we have this 'Green Team' and they are trying to make our school green. We have a poster out there and we are trying to save electricity"  
Megan Year 3

"We are trying to get a Green Flag, we are trying to aim for gold so when other schools visit they know we are a green school."  
Kirsty Year 3

### **Links:**

[Architecture Centre Devon and Cornwall](#)

[Architecture Centre Network](#)

[BBC Breathing Spaces](#)

[CABE](#)

[Eco-Schools](#)

[Forest Schools](#)

[Green Day](#)

[Kew Gardens](#)

[Team Green Britain](#)